

More or less than meets the eye?
Visual Aid faces an uncertain future
and answers questions about finances.
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Vole lotta love
Simon LeVay waxes lyrical
about rodent nookie.
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Kate Bornstein gets
spicy talking about gender,
identity, and her new book.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 6 • 5 February 1998

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years

Michael Brown
with his queer
pinball creation,
Go Girl!

Queer pinball hits its target

by Shan Schwartz

Queer pinball lovers rejoice! There's a new game in town. And it's not just any game ... it's the world's first queer video game, dressed up with video shots of San Francisco's gay pride parade, drag queens cheering and jeering you on, and bumpers decorated with gay themes or notorious homophobes to knock down.

It's "Go Girl!," a creation of San Francisco sculptor Michael Brown, with collaboration from artist Rex Ray, composer m.c. Schmidt, and computer expert Chris Walker. After making rounds throughout the West last year and picking up awards at two major pinball shows, "Go Girl" is back home in San Francisco and will be available for play at The Stud, 399 Ninth Street, this month.

'Drag-enhanced'

It's much more than a few rainbow flags and pink triangles that make this a queer pinball machine. But in addition to being queer, the game includes a live-action video screen and a built-in camera that provide a level of interaction unlike any other video game. Brown said the idea for "Go Girl!" materialized about five years ago after he and a friend, who at that time were regulars at The Detour, decided to give up smoking. "We needed something to occupy our hands," Brown said, "so we took up pinball. I'm an artist and do sculptures, and pretty soon we started tossing around the idea of doing a drag-oriented pinball machine."

It takes little observation to see that the pinball industry is a straight-oriented industry,

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Park and Wreck Department: Politics threaten Eureka Valley Recreation Center

by Mark Mardon

The long-awaited and much-needed expansion and renovation of the Eureka Valley Recreation Center (EVRC), which serves a diverse array of Castro neighborhood groups, may be delayed indefinitely because Mayor Willie Brown wants to take away a huge chunk of its funding for use in one of his pet projects.

The city-owned and -operated center, located on Collingwood Street between 18th and 19th streets, currently provides space for arts and crafts, after-school programs, dances, volleyball and basketball, and a host of other activities. It is heavily used by tots, teens, seniors, the hearing-impaired, and many activity groups, ranging from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to wrestling teams. While it caters to everyone, many of its users are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender.

"It's a very busy center," said Nancy Dito, the center's director. "We could surely use

more space." All of the building's rooms are in use almost all of the time, she added, and the facility is both badly run down and in need of retrofitting to provide ready access for disabled persons.

But some of the \$200,000 in funds accumulated over the past five years for the center's \$1.6 million rehabilitation and expansion may be diverted to one of the mayor's favorite projects in the Bayview district, an \$8.5 million public swimming-pool renovation.

To come up with the money for the pool, Brown is looking to the Citizens Open Space Advisory Committee, a part of the Parks and Recreation Commission, which funds the recreation center, along with projects throughout the city. The committee takes in some \$17 million annually from property taxes, which it banks for parks and recreation projects in every San Francisco neighborhood.

"Brown wants to take money away from virtually every other neighborhood to fund the pool," said Alan Weaver, an openly gay

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LYRIC and Eureka Valley Recreation Center Teen Program participants outside the Center, now badly in need of expansion.

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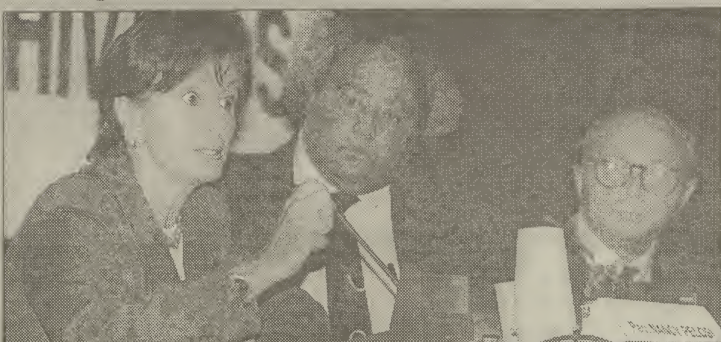
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Gauging the government



Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Health and Human Services' Dr. Eric Goosby, and UCSF's Dr. Steve Morin all participated in Pelosi's Jan. 31 Town Hall Meeting on HIV at the Harvey Milk Academy. The meeting's primary topic was the federal government's commitment to AIDS research, prevention and housing.

Health Commission votes 6-0 for director

Dr. Katz becomes second gay head of DPH

by Cynthia Laird

Dr. Mitch Katz was unanimously approved as the city's new health director Tuesday, February 3. The San Francisco Health Commission voted 6-0 for the former director of the AIDS Office to oversee the city's largest department, which has 6,000 employees and an annual budget of about \$729 million.

Katz becomes the second consecutive openly gay director of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and succeeds his friend and colleague Latina lesbian Dr. Sandra Hernandez, who resigned last summer. Mayor Willie Brown announced at last week's AIDS Summit that he had recommended Katz to the health commission, and the selection points to the sig-

nificance the city's AIDS Office has in local public health policy; like Katz, Hernandez had run that office before becoming director.

Katz, who has served as interim director since last July, received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1986 and earned his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Yale University in 1981. Sources said the mayor had interviewed several people for the post over the last months; apparently, the city's first choice was a physician from Southern California who did not take the job.

While Katz is a respected AIDS researcher and doctor, he has been a lightning rod for criticism within the gay community, most recently for the DPH's enforcing so-called "voluntary" guidelines at city sex clubs that prohibit private spaces.

Openly gay Health Commissioner Ron Hill, who was prevented from attending the commission's meeting Tuesday by flooding in the North Bay, told the B.A.R. last week that he was surprised when Brown made the announcement. "This is news to everybody. Last year, some of us met with the mayor, and he told us he would let us know when he made a decision."

"I think Mitch is very qualified for the job," Hill added.

Hernandez had nothing but praise for her colleague; both she and Katz are practicing physicians at San Francisco General Hospital, where they treat AIDS patients on Ward 86. "I think it's great," she told the B.A.R. "Mitch is an exceptionally bright individual, a problem-solver, and he works hard." ▼

San Francisco to recognize 'National Freedom to Marry Day'

by Vicky Kolakowski

San Francisco will join cities across the country in celebrating "National Freedom to Marry Day," next Thursday, February 12, with events designed to increase support for equal marriage rights for everyone.

Local events that day will include a forum at 6:30 p.m., where the importance and potential effects of legalizing same-sex marriages will be discussed. The forum will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church, located at 150 Eureka Street in the Castro.

"The Hawaii Supreme Court ruling is just around the corner," said forum organizer Cheryl Deaner, executive director of All Our Families Coalition. The Hawaii Supreme Court is presently considering a case that would permit same-sex marriages in that state, which has triggered legislation across the country to ban recognition of such marriages.

Aware that such marriages face such strong opposition, Deaner added that "we who support the

freedom to marry need to educate those who do not understand that lesbian and gay families have the same needs for legal protection and respect as their families do."

During the forum, both Deaner and Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, will discuss the ramifications of legalizing same-sex marriage.

"Having our relationships legally recognized is not about special rights or undermining the 'traditional' American family," said Kendell. "Allowing lesbians and gay men the same right to marry as every other couple promotes such core family values as stability and security for our children."

The day will be honored with an official declaration from Mayor Willie Brown, to be presented by Supervisor Leslie Katz. Resolu-

tions will also be issued commending the work of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Freedom to Marry Coalition, groups that are fighting state legislation to ban recognition of same-sex marriages, and supporting legal efforts to obtain official sanction for such marriages.

While some cities, such as San Francisco, offer official ceremonies or public registration to honor same-sex relationships, these ceremonies and registrations do not carry the same legal protections and obligations as a legal marriage. ▼

For more information regarding the National Freedom to Marry Day and related issues in Northern California, call Cheryl Deaner at (415) 681-1960.

Correction:

We had a bad spell at the B.A.R., and inadvertently misspelled the names of Synagogue Beth Shalom and www.accountabilityproject.com in last week's issue. We regret the errors.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Castro meal program seeks to match anti-hunger challenge grant

by Vicky Kolakowski

Simply Supper, the only program specifically feeding the homeless and hungry in the Castro, is seeking to expand its program through a nationwide challenge grant and donations from community members.

Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein has offered \$1 million to match donations of \$25 or more that community-based anti-hunger organizations nationwide receive from February 4-14 and submit on February 18. If more than \$1 million is raised, the qualifying programs will share the money.

Simply Supper learned of the challenge grant from Representative Nancy Pelosi's office, which forwarded the challenge to several San Francisco anti-hunger pro-

grams. Program organizers believe that this will be the only local qualifying program run by a primarily gay and lesbian organization.

Simply Supper is an outreach of Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco. Each Wednesday, program director David Grant and over a dozen volunteers serve nutritious meals and distribute donated supplies to 40 to 50 people.

The meals program was started last November, after church leaders who are active in Castro Area Planning and Action (CAPA) participated in community meetings held by CAPA and Supervisor Tom Ammann, which cited the need for a food program for the poor and homeless of the Castro.

"We were the first to respond with a program to feed the hungry," Reverend Penny Nixon of MCC/SF told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Nixon said the program is working with area merchants and organizations to expand, and to provide meals on other days. They hope the challenge grant will bring additional funding for food for the hungry into the Castro.

Donations over \$25 must be in the form of a check to "MCC/SF" dated between February 4 and February 14, with a note in the memo stating "Simply Supper." Checks should be mailed in time to be copied and submitted on February 18 to MCC/SF, Attention: "Simply Supper," 150 Eureka Street, SF, CA 94114.

Feinstein is a long-time crusader against hunger, and is the organizer of Brown University's anti-hunger program. He previously made a national challenge for \$100,000, which resulted in eligible organizations raising over \$1.3 million to qualify for the match. ▼

Forum on queer economic development

by Cynthia Laird

Community members are invited to a forum on economic issues in the local queer community this Saturday, February 7, in San Francisco. The afternoon meeting, held by the EQ Development Group and the Harvey Milk Institute, will seek to answer a question posed by Kathleen Connell, EQ's founder: "Is there a hidden gay economic crisis?"

The afternoon discussion is part of EQ's ongoing effort to get feedback from the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community on an aspect of queer life that has long been ignored: the economic impact of discrimination against sexual minorities and the economic fallout from AIDS. The meeting is open to the public. Connell said that Supervisor Tom Ammann will be a featured speaker.

"It's time for everyone to become more aware that many gays and the entire community are at-risk economically," said Connell. "With respect to owning our own homes, access to financial resources, communications, and consideration in government con-

tracting... we do not have an adequate share of the America that we help to build."

Connell and Jaye Whittaker, chief operating officer at EQ, plan to develop a comprehensive economic development plan; both have emphasized such a plan should be an inclusive, community-wide effort. EQ has joined with the Harvey Milk Institute, which is one of the largest queer studies organizations in the world. In the course of its organizing, EQ intends to build partnerships with other organizations, government agencies, businesses, and interested residents.

At the meeting, EQ will roll out some of its ideas in addition to receiving community input. Whittaker said some areas of particular concern include: community control of an economic development planning process; ownership of, in addition to access to affordable housing; establishment of economic and financial institutions to support business start-ups, job creation, home-buying, education, capital formation and retention, and investment; and creation of a state-of-the-art communications infra-

structure for the local, national, and global queer community.

The Saturday meeting is one of EQ's first community actions. Last November, the organization introduced the concept of gay economic development at a meeting of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' Health, Family, and Environment Committee. "Imagine if gay people, starving for positive, honest images of themselves, owned and controlled a piece of the broadcasting and telecommunications pie, instead of huddling around the television every week to see if Disney is going to allow Ellen DeGeneres to stay on the air," Connell said.

Last July, EQ submitted two formal proposals to the Mayor's Office of Community Development to assess the economic condition of San Francisco's queer community, and to develop and implement a strategic economic development plan that addresses the needs of the community. ▼

Saturday's meeting is from 1 to 3 p.m. at MCC-San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street. For more information, call Whittaker at (415) 333-4164.

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Got Milk



The Harvey Milk Club recently announced its new officers: (seated) Ryan Glary, treasurer; Denise D'Anne, correspondent; Dawn Passer, PAC co-chair; Criss Romero, president; (standing) Myrna Diaz, recorder; Philip Babcock, VP internal affairs; and Johanna Breyer, PAC chair.

Crafty anti-union, anti-sunshine petition circulates in Castro

by Mark Mardon

For the past week, signature gatherers have been out in force in the Castro and other neighborhoods throughout San Francisco, circulating a seemingly innocuous petition having to do with nonprofit organizations. At first glance, the petition appears aimed at strengthening unions operating within AIDS organizations and other nonprofit groups — but according to Criss Romero, the newly-elected president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, its proposed ordinance would do just the opposite.

Moreover, the petition drive appears at least in part aimed at undermining efforts by Supervisor Tom Ammiano and many HIV/AIDS activists to enact a Sunshine ordinance for nonprofit organizations. Such an ordinance, currently being shepherd through City Hall by Ammiano, has been the center of a furious battle between activists with the Accountability Project and the

directors of several nonprofit AIDS service organizations, most notably the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Titled "The Not-For-Profit Workplace Privacy Protection Act of 1998," the petition was filed on behalf of San Franciscans United to Protect Our Non-Profits by openly gay political consultant Robert Barnes.

The petition seeks to place on the ballot an ordinance that would, among other provisions relating to union elections, "ensure that the City and County does not condition grants to or contract with nonprofit agencies which have the effect of limiting or abridging the rights and protections afforded under federal law to those agencies and their employees."

In the view of Accountability Project founder Michael Petrelis, who long has been an outspoken critic and thorn in the side of the AIDS Foundation, the thinly veiled language of the petition is crafted in a way that would prohibit the enactment of ordinances such as Sunshine for nonprofits.

"I believe the proposed ballot initiative targets union activity and Sunshine in its confusing wording," said Petrelis.

"Sunshine helps workers organize," said Romero, who works with Local 790 of the Service Employees International Union. Local 790 represents workers in nonprofit organizations.

"One concern I have is how this affects the gay and lesbian community and people of color," added Romero. "I think what Robert's doing is so destructive to the gay/lesbian community. He's a mercenary."

"If the vampires who oppose Sunshine are willing to go to the extreme of a ballot measure at this point in the debate about Sunshine," said Petrelis, "I can only surmise that the nonprofits have something serious to hide." ▼

For the full text of the proposed "Not-For-Profit Workplace Privacy Protection Act of 1998," visit the Accountability Project web site at www.accountabilityproject.com

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Copies of AIDS summit report available

The mayor's office has announced that there are plenty of extra copies of the preliminary report from the Mayor's Summit on AIDS and HIV that was held January 27.

Anyone who would like to have a copy sent to them should leave a message with their mailing address at (415) 554-6657. ▼

Second group for queer Latino Democrats

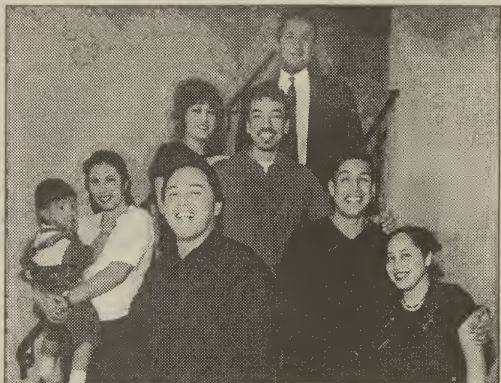
by Cynthia Laird

When the Ambiente Latino Democratic Club was chartered by the San Francisco Democratic Central Committee last month, queer Latinos gained a second political club in the city. The group, which will hold its first meeting this Saturday, February 7, joins another new organization for queer Latinos, the Queer Latino Political Action Committee (QL PAC), in providing politically interested people with forums to determine issues that are important to the Latino lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

All interested people are welcome to the meeting and social.

John Lira, one of the founders of Ambiente, had been a board member of QL PAC but recently resigned. Members of both clubs have stressed the importance of having as many voices as possible in the community, and they don't necessarily view the groups as competitors. "Working together, there is room for everybody," Lira told the B.A.R. "My intent is to do the right thing, and find out where we fit in."

Ambiente was started by a group of gay Latino community members, including co-chairs Lira



Some of the founding members of the Ambiente Latino Democratic Club.

and Jose Najjar, Reymundo Anthony, and Ray Estrada. They wanted to promote greater visibility of the Latino LGBT community, and work at grooming potential candidates for office. Ambiente exists to give political voice and involvement, as well as to bring together and build alliances with other groups to promote the growing political strength of the queer Latino community. They also plan to work closely with the Democratic Party. Lira said there are 53 registered members currently.

"The Latino community as a whole is awakening to our political strength and numbers, and LGBT Latinos are a major driving force behind this effort," said Lira. "We are involved in politics, business, and the arts, and we vote. But we need to come together and identify who we are, how we vote, and support our issues and candidates."

Lira, a native San Franciscan who grew up in the Mission District, has been active in local gay Latino circles since 1986. He ran

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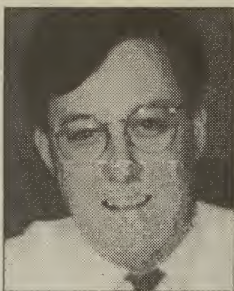
Dowling kicks off Hayward campaign

by Vicky Kolakowski

Longtime Hayward community leader Kevin Dowling will launch his campaign for the Hayward city council with a fundraiser this Sunday, February 8 in Hayward.

A former president and co-founder of Gays and Lesbians Organized for Betterment & Equality (GLOBE), Dowling has a long history of civic and political involvement in Hayward. In addition to serving as president of the Hayward Democratic Club and chair of the United Democratic Campaign, he has spent nine years on local boards and commissions, including three years on the zoning adjustments commission and four on the planning commission. A former aide to Alameda county supervisor Gail Steele, Dowling now is a development and marketing officer for Eden I and R, a local non-profit agency.

Dowling will most likely face



Kevin Dowling

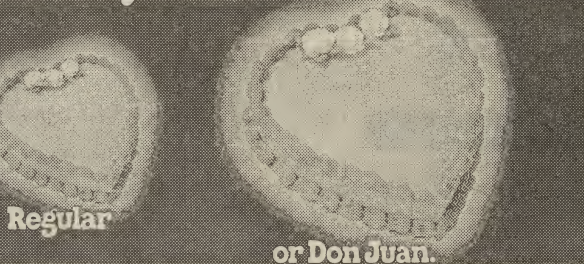
four opponents for two seats, including one incumbent, a local business owner with ties to the chamber of commerce, the head of the mobile homeowners association, and a well-known community activist. Despite the heavy competition, he believes that his ties to local elected officials and his extensive experience with fundraising and running cam-

paigns will make him a serious contender. Dowling should also receive a fundraising boost from his recent endorsement by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a national organization that connects qualified gay and lesbian candidates with donors.

Not afraid to work on behalf of the local gay and lesbian community, Dowling has pledged to use the council position to support efforts to create a gay and lesbian community center in Hayward and to support local gay businesses. ▼

The fundraiser will be held at The Bistro, located at 1001 B Street at the corner of Main in Hayward, from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information or to RSVP for this event, call (510) 481-1784. Kevin Dowling's campaign headquarters may be reached at (510) 247-9259 or by e-mail at kd4council@aol.com.

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The games we play

Not all battles are won on bloody battlefields, at capital rotundas, or in turbulent courtrooms. Sometimes they're won one free ball at a time.

We're referring, of course, to the pinball machine "Go Girl!" on our cover this week, and the amazing breakthrough it represents. For years we've wondered why pinball companies never bothered to create a game geared for our market. It wasn't only that there weren't any gay machines; much worse was that some gaybros were saddled with pinball machines promoting anti-gay things. What self-respecting gay person, for instance, would not recoil at seeing a Mel Gibson *Lethal Weapon* machine flashing away (dare we say menacingly?) in the corner of their local queer gathering place?

It also seemed stupid on the part of pinball manufacturers: if there are enough gay bars around to keep bar guide publishers like Bob Damron in business – and there are – it only makes sense that there would be enough to make it worth the game-makers' effort to come up with a machine for us.

Well, the companies still haven't gotten around to it, but we think it's terrific that a group of fun-loving Bay Area gay pinball wizards did, especially if they are able to market the game nationally. The machine reinforces a sense of fun and Gay Culture that some fear is ebbing in the community, but what is more important (or at least as important) is that it is one more nuts-and-bolts monument to our visibility.

Each Go Girl! pinball machine stands as a testament to the fact that gay people exist. (And that we have economic clout, which is no small thing in this increasingly capitalistic world.) That may seem like a small mat-

ter to some of the younger readers of this paper, but the rest of us remember when such visibility was unimaginable. In fact, we remember when visibility was kind of terrifying, since it usually attracted ridicule. And while Go Girl! is certainly ridiculous (intentionally so, in the best sense of the word), it is us laughing at ourselves, which is in its own way very empowering.

These are the things that change the world in small ways, but change it inexorably. Next we're hoping to see a gay Nintendo game. It sure could give a scintillating new meaning to the term Game Boy.

Speaking of game boys and free balls, it seems America is less than enthused about President Clinton's relationship (whatever it was) with that intern. If only the media – particularly the Bill Gates-owned MSNBC – could follow suit. To say nothing of Kenneth Starr.

As Clinton's popularity climbs, Starr's ratings plummet, and all we can say is it's about time. It is also about time for him to acknowledge that he is a hired assassin, not a special prosecutor, and that he's inept. It has been suggested that he could regain some of his lost credibility by prosecuting the members of his own office staff who have been leaking documents to the press. Of course, that's about as likely as Paula Jones announcing she's having a long-term sexual relationship with Linda Tripp. So it's likely he'll continue to be just another vicious mugger lurking in the shadows of American politics, like J. Edgar Hoover but with a less interesting wardrobe.



Editorial

An interesting and positive result of the whole mess, by the way, has been increased support for the Democratic Party and progressive politics. Although we do believe in bipartisan politics in general, when things get specific it is almost always the Democrats who have helped us to make the modest gains we've eked out so far. Taking a look around at the likely Republican contenders for the presidential nomination, it seems the situation hasn't changed, and nobody on the GOP side has much of anything but contempt for us.

And no, February of 1998 is not too soon to start looking at the race that will be decided in November of 2000. It may look far away to some, but the truth is the race has already begun. It started the day Bill Clinton won the last election, and both sides know it's an important one.

We urge readers to get involved with the political process now, as proud lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders. For some, that will simply be a matter of writing a check to a candidate or two (please write "support gay rights" or a similar message in that "memo" space), while others will get deeper into party politics by joining their local clubs. As Cynthia Laird reports on page 5, a group of gay Latinos and lesbian Latinas recently formed a new Bay Area Democratic club, El Ambiente, and are looking for interested people to join them. The PolitiCalendar on page 24 lists other political clubs in the area, for people of all types. Get involved. Be involved. Stay involved. There's much to be done.

Go, Girl! ▼

Give to the services that help

by Jean Paul

I am so tired of hearing people putting down others because they are fed up with the trash and the never-ending panhandling that is going on in the Castro. There is no need to personally attack anyone for their views, even if you do not agree with them. If you do disagree, disagree like an adult, not a junior high kid by name-calling and personality attacks. One of the most childish and homophobic ways that I just recently read, which is why I'm writing, is the de-gendering of someone by calling them Miss/Ms./Mrs., when in fact it should have been Mr. It's time for us all to grow up; there are more pressing matters that need to be taken care of instead of this childish playground gang-up.

I, too, am tired of the trash and those that make it: it's not only the homeless, yet they do make up a very large part of it. What I see as a problem is that the trash cans are always overflowing, and there are not enough of them for the amount of traffic that goes through the Castro. What I would like to know is: how do we take care of this problem?

Bitching is not going to solve the problem. What we need to do is share the info that we have to help solve the problems in the Castro. As far as I'm concerned, the committee that is supposed to be handling these problems only talks about them and has open bitch meetings. The two meetings that I've been to have not amounted to anything productive. The committee board members did most of the talking, and when someone tried to share an idea, the board members found every way that that idea would not, could not, and should not work. Then they wouldn't even try and find a solution.

I've lived here for five years, and little has improved. So maybe it's time for those who live and play here to pull their resources together and see what can be accomplished, and then bring it to the Board of Supervisors. I do try to do my part by never littering, and since I don't like the panhandling in the



Stone pillow: Sleeping on the streets of the Castro.

Castro, I don't hand out money. That is my choice. I sweep in front of the business that I work for, and we don't allow sitting or panhandling in front of the business I work for.

I give money to several charities that I feel are helping, and I encourage the kids that are panhandling that there is a better way to live if they know where to get the help. Some of these places are:

- St. Anthony Foundation, serving the poor and homeless, 121 Golden Gate Ave. (415) 241-2600.
- Human Services Department of Homeless Services (415) 557-5238.

- Human Services Department of GATES – Gen'l Asst. Training and Employment Services (415) 557-5955.

- Human Services Department of NET – Non-GAIN Education and Training (415) 557-5488.

- 24-hr. drug abuse hotline and info. (415) 362-3400.

- Substance Abuse – Community Substance Abuse Services Administration – Alcohol and Drug Programs, 1380 Howard,

4th floor (415) 255-3500.

- Castro Village Detox offers low-cost (based on ability to pay) services for people recovering from drugs and alcohol abuse. For more info, call (415) 252-9040.

Every one of these can be found in the phone book, and there are even more services out there. This is the way that I try to help. All these places need us to donate money to them so they can continue to help out the people that need it. This is why I choose not to give money to those that panhandle, but instead give it to the services that are out there to help them if only they would take the step towards them. I have been known to give food to those that are panhandling, though, because sometimes they need that right then and there.

Thank you for your time, and hopefully some of this info may help make our neighborhood a safe and clean place to live and play. ▼

For an additional resource, see Vicky Kolakowski's story, "Castro meal program seeks to match anti-hunger challenge grant," on page 3.

LETTERS

Groundbreaking education

I am writing to commend your January 29 article about New College's HIV+ Scholarship Program. This truly is groundbreaking education of the HIV+ community, and the nation at large needs more courageous individuals such as Bill Hershon to step forward and create more of these opportunities. The educational open-mindedness and diversity that is being created at New College should set a new standard. This endeavor holds the possibility to not only help empower HIV+, but to open doors for a new way of living with AIDS in the new millennium. Let's keep the word out there and continue to do good work to make the best for HIV+ community and best of you!

Jesse Cummings
HIV activist/educator
Former New College student
San Francisco

'T' service

I'm an avid reader of your "Out There" column who usually enjoys your scathing "T." So here's one queen's opinion. You have gone too far. Enough is enough!

What's with the constant (every issue) Faye Dunaway tongue-bashing? OK, so you don't agree she's a qualified Oscar-winning diva actress. OK, so she's had some work done. Here's one opinion from a loyal fan - alright, a bored, loyal, yet still "glamorous" fan: Move on!

Chardonnay Ado-do
Virgin Queen '97
San Francisco

Animal antagonism

[The following letter was sent to Dan Soliday ("Rebut seriously, folks," Mailstrom, January 29):]

Thank you for sharing your thoughts (such as they were) in your sweet little open letter to me in the B.A.R. (January 29).

Cognition is "anything that is known or perceived" (Webster's New World Dictionary, Concise Edition, 1969, page 145). Thus the content (or lack of) in B.A.R. editorials would fall within this definition. The same source defines intelligible as "understood; clear; comprehensible," so again, B.A.R. editorial comments on animal rights would be correctly characterized as unintelligible. That they are further unintelligent, as you suggest, goes without question. While the B.A.R. comments do show some of the characteristics of "stupidity," such as "lacking in understanding; slow-witted; dull" (same source), I thought that "stupid" was an unnecessarily offensive adjective that does nothing to keep the discussion on the high intellectual and philosophical level I always aspire to.

I won't quibble about holding one's tongue or holding one's pen. I believe the other readers got the point.

I do agree with your statement that testing drugs for diseases is not the same as hunting, trapping, coat & cosmetics manufacturing, etc., and I said as much in the sixth sentence of my letter. Since untold millions upon millions of animals are tortured and exterminated in testing, I do think it is fair to say that it is a holocaust for them. To my mind, it is an open question whether this is either the best or the only way that we can cure the diseases that afflict the human animal. Do we as higher animals have the right to sacrifice lower animals for our purposes? Again, you haven't presented any arguments as to why you have this right. You merely whine that I am trying to stop you (as if this is some personal grudge) from eating animals or benefiting from their lab experiments, again, two different issues that are not of equal merit. You might prevent getting several nasty killer diseases by a change of diet.

Medicine is a very broad category, not all of which is derived from animal experiments. Even if I benefited from all the drugs tested on animals, does that mean that I can't criticize the barbarity inherent in the animal testing? A "necessary evil" is still an evil, and who has the right to say that I can't fight against it by either seeking to reduce it or eliminating it? Your reasoning comes very close to the love-it-or-leave-it line used on those who oppose the criminal foreign policy of the US Government. My opposition to the above practices is not an arbitrary fiat, which is an assertion based on whim and caprice, and enforced by decree, written as in the case of editors, legal when done by sanction of the government.

Ultimately, any time that you undertake to engage in any public issue, be it gun control, abortion, drug wars, animal rights, civil rights, etc., you are going to impact on someone's rights or customary way of doing things.

I couldn't find any definition of brain farts in the several medical dictionaries that I own. Intellectual intercourse with you is a rare treat, Dan.

Michael P. Hardesty
Oakland, CA

AOL thought police

I just read Wolf Marisol's letter (January 22) on canceling his subscription to America Online. While I agree with it in principle, the comments of most of my friends who subscribe to this service with whom I have spoken suggest an alternative to cancellation.

I plan to think about joining AOL myself within the next two months. However, if I do so, I will be relentless in my reminders to everyone I come into contact with about the repugnance of AOL. AOL is highly suspect in a number of matters relating to gay and lesbians, not only in the matter of Timothy McVeigh, in which the AOL spokespersons in fact confessed and admitted that they had not released information about McVeigh's sexual orientation to the press, and then admitted they had done just that (and all with some phony stuff), but that it was human error.

It would be impossible to go keyword searching on AOL for sites and newsgroups related to the sexual part of homosexuality, because, according to the AOL thought police, homosexuality and related concepts are not what the average and reasonable citizen of the average and reasonable American household would find morally acceptable. In addition, AOL censors still automatically delete profiles of members who are too sexually or otherwise explicit in profile descriptions.

Short of canceling your subscription, the way to combat this stifling of public expression is to fight AOL in their own backyard. If you are currently an AOL member, do everything you can to attack AOL when you are online. Write "Remember Timothy McVeigh" in your profile. Be nasty, licentious, lewd, and lascivious in your profile descriptions. Invite harassment from the AOL Gestapo. Talk about the McVeigh case in chat rooms. And, most of all, tell every gay man and/or lesbian with whom you come in contact on AOL to do exactly the same thing. If enough gay and lesbian subscribers continually bombard it with protests, anger, and guerrilla tactics, AOL will eventually get the message that it cannot continue discriminating against and treating its gay and lesbian subscribers like second-class citizens.

Frank Martinez Lester
San Francisco

Slap fight

Recently, I wrote an open letter to ETVC President Erin Souza, regarding what I perceived as a slap at the gay community contained in the *ETVC Newsletter*.

In response, Erin sent me (and the gay community) a letter of apology that was courteous and gracious. Unfortunately, another representative of that organization, Francis Vavra (FTM crossdresser and past holder of the august title of "Mr. ETVC"), chose to lower the level of dialogue by making a public, unwarranted and unjustified personal attack on me.

By attempting to insult and slur me by referring to me (incorrectly) as "a straight man" in drag, and thus trying to group me with the majority of her fellow ETVC members, Ms. Vavra demonstrated the very attitude of hypocritical homophobia of which I complained in my original letter.

Since I am barely acquainted with Ms. Vavra, I am at a loss to understand the basis for her very personal (and very false) assumption regarding my sexual orientation - which, of course, is none of her business in the first place. She certainly isn't speaking from personal experience!

Perhaps Ms. Vavra should have read Erin Souza's letter before writing her own - it might have prevented her from making such a fool of herself.

Victoria Secret
San Francisco

AEF is unfair

I have been a client of the AIDS Emergency Fund for years. All of a sudden, my funds are being cut off, because I live in the wrong county. I'm proud to be living in Contra Costa County. The new board president, Loren Berthelsen, has decided that we are not good enough to get funds from AEF anymore. I see, San Mateo and Marin counties are good enough for Mr. Berthelsen. What have you got against us? We probably have more AIDS cases than San Mateo and Marin combined, and richer people live in those counties, too. This new board president didn't consider how many people are going to suffer from this. Contra Costa County has always gotten the "short end of the stick." They've taken the AIDS Project (Alliance) in Concord away from us. Now it's the AEF. Since I can't pay all my bills now, I'll pretend I'm homeless and ask for a hand-out.

Scott Sproat
Walnut Creek

[Editor's note: The issue is not that you are "not good enough" because you live in Contra Costa County; the problem is that county residents apparently have never believed AEF was good enough to support financially, as other counties have done.]

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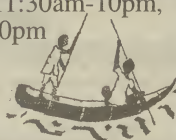
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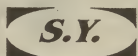
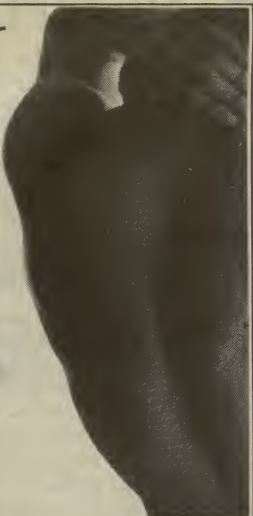
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Pride de-emphasizing politics

Re: "Big plans for Pride '98 draw scrutiny," January 22 issue:

It pleases me to read that Pride Celebration Board President Deborah Oakley-Melvin realizes that the not-so-distant past was "a very powerful time," but she should know that this too is a powerful time, and that the powerful times did not end in '78 with the Milk-Moscone assassinations, nor with the bathhouse closures in '84, nor the apogee of AIDS-related deaths in 1992. As she points out, our issues are "addressed all year round," yet twice in the past year the Supreme Court chose not to address what might be our rights — the right to privacy and to intimate association in the case of *Sahar vs. Bowers*, and the right to speech in the case of *Stefan vs. the Navy*. Could it be that the Court senses that in San Francisco, which Oakley-Melvin considers the vanguard of change, LGBTs are content only to party in June — or to live out their lives acting straight as Larry Kramer and our own David Dalton recommend — rather than hear agitation or even agitate themselves for their rights?

In 1980 the Committee's fundraising co-chair, an aide to Louise Renne, then a supervisor, said in support of de-emphasizing politics, "We have our rights in San Francisco." Last fall, the Committee's treasurer again declared, "We have our rights in San Francisco." Yet so much has happened between now and then, much of it positive, and yet a queer youth coming of age in San Francisco today does not enjoy equality in the nation. In 1980, the Committee had a deficit approaching \$10,000; this year, it approaches \$100,000. What does one make of that? Is it an example of "a natural evolution," to borrow from Oakley-Melvin's vocabulary, or could it be that when the Parade Committee neglects its mandate, that is what happens?

I can party all year round in San Francisco, and some nights do. So why should I go to the Pride Party? Well, in three years, I haven't.

Instead, I've watched the parade on television, where, we learned in the '60s, the revolution will not happen, and it didn't.

Such was my protest, such my celebration.

Reid Condit
San Francisco

Those whimsical Victorians

Re: That olde Victorian again

Drive around Twin Peaks some day, particularly along Burnett, Corbett, Crestline, or Gardendale Streets. Notice the architectural monstrosities there. Row after row of flat-sided apartment buildings, with square aluminum windows, and with absolutely no attention to style in their design. Then take a look at the "mediocre" Victorian that the GLBT Center wants to tear down because it will cost them too much to rehabilitate. I think we are looking at the wrong building to tear down.

The Victorians of San Francisco are a unique collection of creative and whimsical architecture. They are the architecture of San Francisco. We cannot let any of them go so far into disrepair that the only remedy is demolition. Imagine how many Victorians were torn down in the 1950s to accommodate the Central Freeway. Remember the Fox Theater on Market Street. That incredible building was torn down to be replaced by one of the more boring high-rises in the city.

Our buildings are part of the heritage in San Francisco that brings continuity to our lives. They are a constant reminder of the people who came before us. I don't think it's an accident that the center of Gay America is in San Francisco. This is a town that understands and celebrates diversity in all things.

We cannot let landlords believe that if they don't like the expense of maintaining a Victorian treasure, that it's OK to let it fall into disrepair and then tear it down.

The GLBT has chosen the wrong site. They should sell that Victorian to someone who has the resources and the will to bring it back to its former glory. The GLBT should be spending its money on its constituents.

David E. Feiler
San Francisco

Looks at the Loading Dock

Which is more important: yet another drinking establishment which feels required to cater to everyone who simply walks through the door, or making the diversity of the gay and lesbian community more visible by enabling businesses to cater to specific facets and supporting their desire to maintain a consistent picture in how their business serves the community?

While I don't want to denigrate the importance of community leaders like Donna Sachet, I have to come down on the side of the Loading Dock in refusing her service, as reported by Mr. Marcus a couple weeks ago. Drag is only one of many "looks" which does not fit with the image of a leather bar which the Loading Dock is putting forward.

Jim Drew
San Mateo, CA

Expert opinions

With all the hype and "expert opinions" and people polls expressed and reported on the Clinton-Lewinsky affair, I have yet to see results of what could be the most meaningful poll. It is claimed that, in the opinion of some people, getting blowjobs from someone other than your spouse is not really being unfaithful. Why don't they ask gay men about this? After all, we're the experts.

W. L. Warner
San Francisco

Modern maturity

Years ago we got hitched at a Club Mud party, which was reported by your Mr. Marcus. On the maturity scale, we both consider ourselves dirty little kids, perhaps in the age bracket of a ten-year-old. Our greatest joy is mud wrestling.

When we first met, we decided on an open relationship. I can count on one hand the times we actually had extra-marital affairs, usually with close friends. We are both very much in love with each other, and know that occasional encounters with other human beings is fine. Jealousy is a big, bad monster which raises its ugly head in people who are unsure of themselves or their partner in life.

My question is: if Rat and I consider ourselves on the level of a ten-year-old, what is the maturity level of christian/republican/fundies, or for that matter, the media, who are rallying against Clinton's alleged sexual adventures? One? Two? Two-and-a-half?

Bro Duke
Rat the Barbarian
Club Mud
Rio Nido, CA

Religious ritual behind bars

[The following letter was sent to Sapphistication columnist Beth Elliott:]

You're wrong about the relative importance of ritual and ethics in religion. This is a common mistake of agnostics and atheists in trying to make sense of religious people: we don't want to accept the apparently superstitious and arbitrary aspects of their world-view as intrinsic.

It is simply not true that "paying... dues, accepting personal limitations [and] humility" are in some way more important than "outward observances." To people who believe that all of the above are dictated by their Creator, they are equivalent — whether it makes sense to "rational" people or not.

For instance, according to Orthodox Jewish law, penitence and restitution on earth are necessary before a crime can be divinely forgiven. Also according to Orthodox Jewish law, a man cannot shave. [Modern Orthodoxy allows men to use depilatories on facial hair, but not a razor.] Both commandments are based on the Bible, elaborated by generations of authorities, and equally binding. Violating one does not by any logic encourage observance of the other. On the contrary, if a prisoner takes the restriction on shaving seriously, I would hope this shows the ability to also take seriously the restrictions on stealing, beating people up, selling dangerous substances, etc.

Jailhouse changes of heart are notoriously content-dependent. It might help reduce recidivism if, when ex-cons go back on the street, they take with them a few concrete reminders of what their religion expects of them. Moral exhortations don't have the same force in this respect as daily physical practices. The reason people create and preserve ritual is that it steadies and orients the non-rational, animal part of our brains — the part that, physiologically speaking, makes decisions. If religiously-based grooming rituals can help former criminals make better decisions, we potential crime-victims should be entirely in favor.

Rebecca Ripley
Menlo Park, CA

[Beth Elliott responds: Interesting letter. I think she has a decent point about ritual helping people stay focused on moral resolutions; that was very thoughtful. Still, as a rational person (thanks for the compliment!), I see a difference: ritual observance is a matter between the individual and the divine as they conceive it; ethical observance is a matter between the individual and other individuals. Unless two interacting individuals have the same religion, the only standard for judging their behavior toward each other can be an objective one. From an objective point of view, ritual is a tool, a means to an end — whether that end is a state of consciousness or mode of behavior.]

Short, signed letters should be sent to 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103. Please include your telephone number for our verification purposes; that information will not be published. We may withhold names of letter writers in cases where they would otherwise face an obvious danger, but we never publish letters that arrive at the office unsigned. People who have opinions worthy of writing to the editor should also have the integrity to sign their names.

He hath risen...again

by Wayne Friday

As President Bill "Comeback Kid" Clinton dodged yet another sex scandal? Or is the real dirt on the current Beltway "Sex, lies, and audiotape" affair yet to be aired? Slick Willie, a man whose hormones appear stuck in permanent overdrive, certainly possesses the ability to look the American public straight in the eye and deny any and all misdeeds. Forget Ronald Reagan; William Jefferson Clinton will go down in history as the Teflon President.

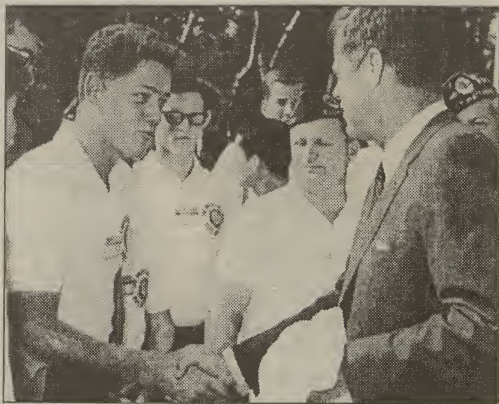
As we go to press, a *Washington Post* poll shows that Clinton has never been more popular with the American people and that the country is feeling better about itself than it has in more than two decades. And yes, almost all the public opinion polls show that the majority of Americans feel that Clinton most likely did have some kind of sexual affair with 24-year-old former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. However, these same Americans know that they now find it easier to buy a new car or a home because of low interest rates and a stable economy, so who cares whether or not Ms. Lewinsky earned her "presidential kneepads" or not?

True, Clinton's marks on honesty and trustworthiness are decidedly low, but "It's the economy, stupid!"—and in that department, Bill Clinton is at the top of the class. For the first time since 1969, the federal budget (\$1.73 trillion) will see a surplus (\$9.5 billion), and U.S. bank accounts are generally healthier than they've been in a long while. Besides, what's more important: the Prez's sexual peccadilloes or the almighty dollar? My fellow Americans, you know the answer.

If the polls show anything, it's that the so-called "moral leadership" of the president is less important to most than the man's ability to successfully spearhead a government and articulate his policies. Will Bill Clinton survive this latest *faux pas*, which seems destined to be immortalized as "Zippergate"? Probably, although he may serve out the remainder of his term as a somewhat compromised lame duck.

While a majority of those polled by the *Washington Post* agree with Hillary Rodham Clinton that the president's political enemies are "conspiring" to bring down his presidency, almost the same number say that these would-be conspirators' most powerful ally is none other than Clinton himself. More than half agree that Bill Clinton has only himself to blame for the current sex scandal controversy, and nearly half of them say that the Clinton presidency will be remembered for the endless allegations about his personal life, not for the accomplishments of his administration.

Some polls have President Clinton's public approval ratings as high as 73 percent, the highest of his career. However, even the president's many spin doctors caution that if Bill Clinton is eventually proven to be a liar about the Monica Lewinsky caper, the public may quickly change its views — especially if it's shown that Clinton (and/or Vernon Jordan) actually pressured Lewinsky



Historic handshake: Bill Clinton meets idol John F. Kennedy.

to perjure herself as regards their relationship.

Will Washington tourguides start giving the White House address as 1600 Melrose Place? Will the Bubbameister rise from the ashes once again? And if he does, will he finally learn a lesson? (Not bloody likely.) Have we heard the last about whether oral sex really constitutes

adultery or not? Will Hillary (no cookie baker, she!) be forever cast in the role of the long-suffering wife who stands by her errant spouse no matter what? (Or will she give Bill his walking papers post-2000, as many suspect?)

Remember, folks, Bill Clinton is the same person who, after shaking hands with the late President John F. Kennedy while still a high school student, came away from that meeting declaring, "Some day, I want to be just like that man." In one area at least, he appears to have fulfilled his goal.

Democratic dilemma

Golden State Democrats are in a tizzy now that their favorite candidate for governor, popular U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, is officially out of the running. Democratic Party leaders are worried about keeping control of the state Senate after November. The current line-up is 22 Democrats, 17 Republicans, and 1 Independent (Quentin Kopp).

Every two years, half of California's 40 state senators are up for re-election. Of the 20 seats up for grabs this year, 13 are held by Democrats, while only six are Republican. Kopp's seat will go to Democrat Jackie Speier, the one sure bright spot for the Democrats. Otherwise, only time will tell. A Dianne Feinstein candidacy, many feel, would have been a huge boost to Democratic hopes across the state.

Despite rumors that Jerry Brown is having "all kinds of trouble" with local issues, he is still considered the front-runner in the June 2 Oakland mayoral race, though he likely will face a November runoff.

Democrat Antonio Villaraigosa will take over Assembly Speaker duties from Cruz Bustamante February 26.

Just Wondering Dept.: Why hasn't the Hollywood circle of longtime Clinton supporters spoken up more loudly on the current sex scandal rumors? Could the Barbra Streisand factor be coming into play here? (Or hadn't you heard that rumor?)

In New Orleans, D.A. Harry Connick (yes, the father of the famed crooner) said this week that he will convene a task force of gay and lesbian leaders and top city officials to discuss the constitutionality of a new law calling for stiffer penalties for hate crimes.

House Budget Committee chair Representative John Kasich (R-Ohio) is putting out hints that he would like to run for president in 2000. Not surprisingly, he's been kissing up to the Christian Coalition and the Conservative Political Action Committee (C-PAC) for support. This, of course, is the same recently-married Representative Kasich they were whispering those lavender-tinged rumors about not so long ago in DC.

Assemblywoman Diane Martinez (D-Monterey Park) announced last week that she will battle Marin Supel Hal Brown for the Democratic nomination to take on incumbent GOP state Insurance Commissioner Charles Quackenbush next November. Meanwhile, the commissioner and wife Chris Quackenbush, a state senate candidate in the Sacramento area, could become a rare husband-wife team in the state capital if both are winners in '98.

City Hall insiders are asking: When will Mayor Willie Brown appoint a new supervisor — and is it really taking him this long to find someone "suitable?" Most consider the appointment long overdue.

Senator Barbara Boxer, who says she will need to raise \$20 million for a successful re-election campaign, is starting to pick up big-name Hollywood support like Steven Spielberg and Kate Capshaw, who hosted a recent fundraiser for her. Gay billionaire producer David Geffen is also aboard the Boxer bandwagon.

A must-read for all political junkies: *Tricky Dick and The Pink Lady*. This book by Greg Mitchell (Random House, \$22) is a lively and pretty even-handed account of the infamous Richard Nixon vs. Helen Gahagan Douglas race.

Also doing well again in bookstores: Walt Whitman's legendary *Leaves of Grass*. I suppose I needn't tell you why, though given this classic's homoerotic content, its sudden surge in popularity is amusing.

I'm told by a usually reliable City Hall source that there are some big political names urging Angela Alioto to run for mayor against Willie Brown the next time around.

Next week: an in-depth look at Senator Barbara Boxer's likely Republican opponent, state Treasurer Matt Fong. ▽



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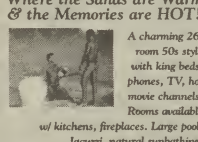
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GLAAD tidings



GLAAD's (l to r) Chastity Bono, Joan M. Garry and Richard Carlstrom share a laugh Feb. 1 with famed *Tales of the City* author Armistead Maupin. The occasion was a GLAAD cocktail party at the Marine Memorial's Crystal Lounge where members could schmooze and also meet Garry, the organization's new executive director.

Eve of self-destruction

by Beth Elliott

Burn, Baby, Burn! Burn, Baby, Burn! Oooh, It's A Bimbo Eruption! Dept.: Ward, I'm a little worried about the beaver hunter. I know it's premature to conclude that the Presidential Bubba has really put the lick willie in Slick Willie (or was at deadline ... who knows by publication?). To my way of thinking, though, anyone using a focus group (of reporters, no less!) to decide what response to allegations of scandal will give the best spin may have a need to stall for time and counterattack. I discern telltale traces of backing off, fast, from an assumption that the voters weren't going to care about a third-rate buggery.

I also know many people's opinion of whether Bill Clinton should remain in office after so many ethically questionable escapades comes down to whether they want him in office in general. For me, impeachment comes down to whether or not he suborned perjury; proof of the allegations he used State of Arkansas resources to scam babes would clinch it. I'll even offer a suggestion on how the Democrats can win the spin war in case it comes to that: resignation, a pardon from President Gore, and a dare to the Republicans to compare Clinton against Nixon.

Meanwhile, the circumstantial evidence does seem to suggest that our president, putative model feminist husband and ally of women with activist First Lady wife, may have an out-of-control libido that has led him to risk his reputation, and possibly his office, in a search of oral sex from young women in government jobs. Now, having a president with a certain amount of "vigah" is probably a very positive thing, especially compared to presidents we could name who struck many of us as all dried up. There are, after all, less harmful ways to prove one's manhood than to wag the dog with a meaningless war (or pulling out before finishing a potentially meaningful war ... pun intended). Nonetheless, beneath the charges and countercharges are some very interesting and disturbing questions ... and if you figured I'm just

the woman to ask them, or just the woman to go ahead and ask them even if I'm not, you figured correctly.

Now I know the supposedly sophisticated take on this would be the European one: that it's small-minded and prudish to make a big deal about a powerful politician having an affair, and that we make America look provincial when we're shocked. However, there's a difference between an arrangement for each spouse's cinq-a-sept and the excuse that since it was only oral sex, it wasn't really adultery (yeah, right).

What will really tick me off, if Clinton's denials turn out to be lies, will be the hypocrisy. This is a politician who has competed with the Religious Right to present himself and his wife as promoters of "family values." Think of how gung ho he was about the Defense of Marriage Act — not that he's been that careful with his own. Whether or not he clears his name, look at the innuendo to which he's left his wife open: everyone knows one major reason married men cheat is to get the oral sex their wives think is gross. The V chip for television and Net surfing, etc. — Clinton's played it to the hilt. If he's done so while looking for ways to get his train pulled without technically cheating, he will deserve a reputation as a total sleazeball.

(Kudos to Editor Mike, who'll no doubt hate this column, [Editor's note: I do] for pointing out Clinton's hypocrisy in refusing to endorse decriminalization of oral sex in Arkansas.)

Then there's the idea of this supposed feminist hero using office staff as his personal singles bar. We have allegations that the Arkansas state trooper kept on Paula Jones to date the Gubernatorial Bubba for well over a month after he allegedly hit on her, and White House interns rarely have incidental contact with the President. Not only would all this mess, if true, be creating the type of hostile work environment that leaves bosses open to sexual harassment suits, it would be "men behaving

badly" writ large.

And speaking of feminism, I don't hear any of our leaders calling on us to believe the women accusing President Bill on the principle that "no woman would lie about something like this." Monica Lewinsky has been portrayed as paradoxically both naive and viciously cunning — gee, Madonna and whore all wrapped up into one! The *Chronicle*, giving credence to the stereotype of the liberal press, ran a profile that contrasted her having volunteered to help the needy with going on to

get a job doing corporate public relations (evil! evil!). (Volunteer good, getting a job bad? How warmed-over new left.) Nope, taking the feminist moral high ground loses out to partisan politics on this one.

Speaking of which, is the whole brouhaha really a right-wing plot to

destroy Bill Clinton? Somehow I don't see him as the great and powerful leftist who would stir up the hostility and opposition that many of us routinely aimed at leaders like Ronald Reagan. And, quite frankly, Clinton's partisans are in no position to complain — not after Justice Thomas's confirmation hearings. Let's admit it: that was about keeping a conservative off the Supreme Court. And I'm glad Robert Bork was blocked; the man is a bigot. No one with his animus toward homosexuality is fit to be one of the final arbiters of gay and lesbian Americans' rights and freedom.

For two decades, both right and left have been calling each other's agenda, and the other's organized opposition to their own agenda, an "evil plot." Both believe they are the only thing standing in the way of society turning into a living hell. Since neither manages to combine social freedom and economic freedom into a platform worthy of our votes, many of us have no reason in hell to support either exclusively.

And both have complained of special prosecutor "excesses" when they were under the microscope. Both Ollie North and Bill Clinton have deserved it. ▼

Sapphistication



We may lose Ellen forever!

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

GLAAD has learned that ABC's decision about whether to renew *Ellen* for another season may happen as early as next week. More than ever, ABC needs to know how much of an impact this show has had on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and our families and friends. Don't let the voice of a radical fundamentalist minority be the only one that ABC hears. Let the network know how having a positive portrayal of a lesbian lead character on primetime television has affected your life and the lives of those close to you.

Ellen has broken precedent after precedent by bringing America an honest, funny, and poignant look at Ellen Morgan — and in doing so, at lesbians and gay men everywhere. It is essential that the community and our friends rally around the television every Wednesday and support this landmark program. Since she and her character emerged from the closet, Ellen DeGeneres has become an unstoppable force in fighting for equal rights. *Ellen* has brought the real experience of the lesbian and gay community to millions of viewers in a landmark fashion.

This may be our last chance to write ABC and Disney!

Contact: Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles CA 90037, feedback form: <http://www.abc.com/voice/View-cons1.html>; and Michael Eisner, Chairman & David Newman, President of Network TV, The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank CA 91521, Fax: (818) 560.1930, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.disney.com/Mail>

When Irish eyes aren't smiling

As the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO) in New York City gears up for another year of trying to gain inclusion in the St. Patrick's Day parade, the local NBC network affiliate has recently committed to airing the parade in 1998. In the past, WPIX has aired the parade, and this year WNBC President Dennis Swanson specifically sought it out for broadcast, in spite of the parade's hostile past with Irish lesbians and gay men and the fact that in a 1997 poll, 75 percent of New Yorkers felt that ILGO should be

allowed to march.

ILGO and GLAAD are asking that Swanson and WNBC reconsider broadcast unless the parade organizers, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, relent and allow all Irish people to march, regardless of sexual orientation. In addition, ILGO has suggested that WNBC produce an in-depth special exploring the issue of homophobia and ethnic identity, including but not limited to the Irish community, for broadcast near the parade date.

Please let WNBC know how you feel about serving as the medium through which the Ancient Order of Hibernians display their intolerance of their fellow Irish people. ILGO indicates that Swanson most prefers getting messages via fax or snail-mail, but e-mail is also received.

Contact: Dennis Swanson, President, WNBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, NY 10020, fax: 212.664.3201, e-mail: NBC4ny@nbc.com.

Coming out Party of Five

On the January 28 episode of Fox's *Party of Five*, Sarah's boyfriend Elliot (Christopher Gorham) came out as gay. After some initial confusion where Elliot thought that Bailey was also gay, and then found out it isn't so, Elliot broke up with Sarah without telling her why. After Bailey told Sarah about what was going on, she confronted Elliot, who told her, "I was just trying to figure everything out at once. I wasn't sure. I didn't want it to be true. ... When I met you, I thought, 'If I can love this woman, maybe it'll make it all go away.'"

Sarah responded, "I just don't get men at all." Elliot agreed, saying, "Well, welcome to the club."

In the end, Sarah realized she still wanted to be close with Elliot, and they both admired a passing man and laughed about it together.

Hopefully, this gay character will enjoy a higher profile than Mitchell Anderson did as Claudia's violin teacher. By having Elliot come out, *Party of Five* has an excellent opportunity to develop the character and the reactions of the rest of the cast, as he becomes more open and accepting of himself. GLAAD has learned that Elliot is not currently included in any of the scripts before the show goes on hiatus March 11-April 22.

Commend Fox and the producers of *Party of Five* for having

Elliot come out of the closet, and encourage them to continue developing his character and give him a regular storyline and prominence in the ensemble cast.

Contact: Peter Roth, President of Fox Entertainment Group, Fox Television Network, 10201 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90064-2606; and Ken Topolsky, Executive Producer, *Party of Five*, 10202 West Washington Boulevard, Garland Building, Culver City CA 90232, fax: 310.244.2257



Just shoot stereotypes

The January 29 episode of *Just Shoot Me!*, NBC's wacky look at the glamour magazine industry, featured Brian Dennehy as the macho fireman father of office manager Dennis Finch (David Spade), trying to re-establish a relationship with the son he thinks is gay. Regular viewers of the show know that despite Dennis's flighty attitude and catty remarks, he is quite the ladies' man. Dennis's father only saw that his slight son, who as a youth played the harp instead of football and now prefers *Showboat* to boat shows, must be gay because he's not a big butch firefighter like his other two sons.

To his credit, the father decided to support Dennis, going so far as buying them comical matching T-shirts proclaiming, "It's raining men!" Dennis tried repeatedly to

get his father to understand that although he might not be very masculine, he's not gay. Dennis's two brothers, also in town for a firefighter's convention, joined him and his father for a dinner, during which it was revealed that one of the brothers is a closeted gay man, causing the father to retreat emotionally once again.

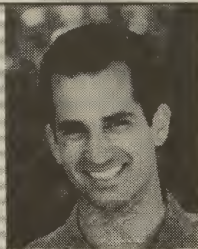
Just Shoot Me! brought up two very good points with this amusing episode: First, stereotypes are unreliable. Second, closeting oneself makes it difficult for others to know the real you. While Dennis's father assumed he was gay, the

dad didn't know how to approach him but finally decided he was just going to forge ahead and get to know the "real" Dennis. When he later realized it's one of his non-stereotypical sons who is really gay, and has kept it from him all these years, he stumbled back into his own emotional closet. Without the son's sexual orientation out in the open, it feels like a "dirty little secret" that keeps the father guessing and confused.

Contact: Warren Littlefield, President of Entertainment, NBC Television, 3000 West Alameda Avenue, Burbank CA 91523 ▼

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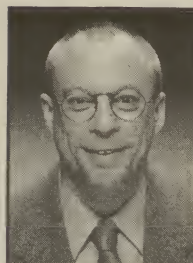
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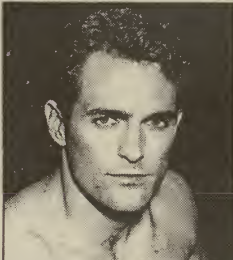


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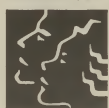
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Ass-headed Bottom with amorous sighs,
When Oberon instilled her eyes
With juice of pansy-flowers. The poet
Imagined it, and scientists know it.

Since we're agreed on love's obedience
To chemistry, what's the ingredients?
The answer comes from work on voles
(They're tiny rodents that live in holes)
Done by Tom Insel, an M.D.
At Emory University.

The prairie vole (perhaps *Microtus
Ochrogaster*, but please don't quote us)
Is passion's slave: so keen to mate
It brings a U-Haul to its first date,
And moves right in, never to be sundered.
Their love is such, that if one blundered
Into a trap, the other prefers to mingle
Its soul in death than to survive single.

How different is its mountain cousin
(Called *M. montanus*, if you're fussin'
About names). He scoffs at marriage bands
And wastes his life on one-night stands.
He's called the "circuit vole" - he's glamorous
And sexy, but not amorous.

"One vole's a saint, and one's a slut,"
Thought Insel, "So, suppose I cut

Their brains up, see what's not the same,
Maybe I'll find what feeds love's flame."
And sure enough, he soon was focussin'
On a tiny hormone called oxytocin
Found in the hypothalamus and nearby,
At the brain's base, behind the eye.

The hormone surges during sex;
It fills the beast's brain as he necks
And smooches; it finds the neurons' nooks
And crannies; it freezes his lover's looks
Into synaptic concrete, leaving him forever
Fixated on his mate - how clever!

That's saintly ochrogaster. But
The brain of *M. montanus* (slut)
Is wired quite differently, says Insel:
There's less "receptors" found within cell
Groups in regions of the brain
Where conjugality has its domain,
Which means they're deaf to the hormone's call.
So when sex is done the vole says, "Y'all
Take care!" and off he trots to find
Another vole with sex in mind.

From voles to humans is a country mile,
I grant you. Still, in a short while
They'll find the stuff that works for us,
And then I'll snare you with no fuss.
I'll send it as a Scratch 'n' Sniff,
But since the stuff works in a jiff
I'll make a point of being present,
Or else you'll fall for the first peasant
Your eyes may fall on as you scratch,
And that will leave me without a match,
For the love-smitten can't be unmote
Until they find an antidote.

So that's the truth about love's biology;
If you don't like it, here's my apology.
You still say love's a magic art,
The breath of Venus, Cupid's dart,
Or some such stuff? Say what you like,
I only know I love thee, Mike. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his
research on the "gay brain." He is the author of
The Sexual Brain, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth
Nonas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996),
and the biomedical thriller *Albrick's Gold*
(Richard Kasak Books, 1997). He may be reached
at SLeVay@aol.com. For more Queer Science
columns, visit www.gay.net.

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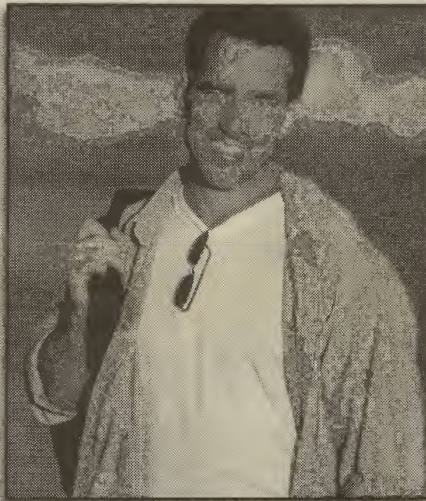
*SEROSTIM combats the loss of lean body mass in ways other treatments don't.**

SEROSTIM is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia, in combination with antiviral therapy, based on analysis of intermediate effects in studies up to 12 weeks duration.

You may know that wasting robs a person of lean muscle and organ mass, and physical performance. But did you know that it can strike anyone with HIV? At any time? Even while your weight remains constant? That's because you could be adding fat to your body while still losing lean body mass (LBM).

If you are experiencing wasting, discuss with your doctor whether SEROSTIM—human growth hormone—might be right for you.

SEROSTIM rebuilds LBM and improves physical performance while reducing body fat. Studies show that without the LBM you need, you could become weaker, get sick more often and may not live as long as people who are not losing lean body mass; although the clinical significance of treatment-induced weight gain and increasing LBM have not been established. Physical performance was assessed by treadmill exercise testing. Grip strength, another measure of muscle performance may decline, probably due to increased tissue fullness, which sometimes occurs with growth hormone. Subjective assessment of performance was measured in a nine-point questionnaire. SEROSTIM showed significant improvements on two points—change in appearance and overall benefit of therapy—while results of the other measures were inconclusive. Patients who continue to lose weight in their first two weeks of therapy should be reevaluated.



SEROSTIM isn't a steroid, an appetite stimulant or nutritional supplement. It's a completely new anabolic (LBM building) and anticatabolic (inhibits LBM breakdown) treatment that increases LBM and improves physical performance by interacting with a variety of cell types.

One way to know for sure if your treatment has restored LBM is to ask your doctor about BIA or Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis. BIA measures body composition so changes in LBM can be monitored. It takes just 5 minutes and is completely painless. If your physician cannot provide

BIA testing, ask him/her to call Serono at 800-714-2437 and a representative will help your physician gain access to a BIA system on your behalf.

People on SEROSTIM may observe side effects. In clinical trials, patients treated with SEROSTIM noticed muscle and joint soreness (53.7% vs. 33.3% for placebo) and swelling in the hands and feet (27.3% vs. 2.7% for placebo). Physicians rated these symptoms as mild-to-moderate, and in most cases they will subside with continued treatment. Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. SEROSTIM use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Also, SEROSTIM must be used along with anti-HIV drug therapy. Data related to interactions between SEROSTIM and anti-HIV treatments are not yet available.

Wasting is treatable. See your doctor or call the SEROSTIM Access Line at 800-714-2437 to find out about SEROSTIM's solution. ■


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*Serostim is an anabolic and anticatabolic agent that works by interacting with specific receptors on a variety of cell types. For additional information about Serostim, please refer to the brief summary on the next page.

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science of Serostim.*


[somatotropin (rDNA origin) for injection]

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BRIEF SUMMARY. SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION BEFORE PRESCRIBING.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Serostim® [somatotropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia. This indication is based on analyses of surrogate endpoints in studies of up to 12 weeks in duration. Concomitant anti-viral therapy is necessary (see PRECAUTIONS: General). The continued use of Serostim treatment should be reevaluated in patients who continue to lose weight in the first two weeks of treatment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Serostim is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to growth hormone.

PRECAUTIONS: General: Serostim therapy should be carried out under the regular guidance of a physician who is experienced in the diagnosis and management of AIDS. Inadequate nutritional intake, malabsorption and hypogonadism, which are common in individuals with AIDS and which may contribute to catabolism and weight loss, should also be monitored and treated.

HIV and Growth Hormone Considerations: In some experimental systems, recombinant human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been shown to potentiate HIV replication in vitro at concentrations ranging from 50-250 ng/ml. There was no increase in virus production when the antiretroviral agents, zidovudine, didanosine or lamivudine were added to the culture medium. Additional in vitro studies have shown that r-hGH does not interfere with the antiviral activity of zalcitabine or stavudine. In the controlled clinical trials, no significant growth hormone-associated increase in viral burden was observed. However, the protocol required all participants to be on concomitant nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of the study. In view of the potential for acceleration of virus replication, it is recommended that HIV+ patients be maintained on nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of Serostim treatment.

Increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly in the hands and feet) and musculoskeletal discomfort (pain, swelling and/or stiffness) may occur during treatment with Serostim, but may resolve spontaneously, with analgesic therapy, or after reducing the frequency of dosing (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Carpal tunnel syndrome may occur during treatment with Serostim. If the symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome do not resolve by decreasing the weekly number of doses of Serostim, it is recommended that treatment be discontinued.

Patients should be informed that allergic reactions are possible and that prompt medical attention should be sought if an allergic reaction occurs. None of the 186 study participants with AIDS wasting who were evaluable for antibody assessments and who were treated with Serostim for the first time developed detectable antibodies to growth hormone (>4 pg binding). Patients were not rechallenged.

Recombinant Human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been associated with acute pancreatitis.

Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. Serostim use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Patients with other risk factors for glucose intolerance should be monitored closely during Serostim therapy.

No cases of intracranial hypertension (IH) have been observed among patients with AIDS wasting treated with Serostim. The syndrome of IH, with papilledema, visual changes, headache, and nausea and/or vomiting has been reported in a small number of children with growth failure treated with growth hormone products. Nevertheless, fundoscopic evaluation of patients is recommended at the initiation and periodically during the course of Serostim therapy.

Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, and other malignancies are common in HIV+ individuals. There was no increase in the incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, or in the progression of cutaneous Kaposi's sarcoma in clinical studies of Serostim. Patients with internal KS lesions were excluded from the studies. Potential effects on other malignancies are unknown.

Information For Patients: Patients being treated with Serostim should be informed of the potential benefits and risks associated with treatment. Patients should be instructed to contact their physician should they experience any side effects or discomfort during treatment with Serostim. It is recommended that Serostim be administered using sterile, disposable syringes and needles. Patients should be thoroughly instructed in the importance of proper disposal and cautioned against any reuse of needles and syringes. An appropriate container for the disposal of used syringes and needles should be employed. Patients should be instructed to rotate injection sites to avoid lipodystrophy.

Drug Interactions: Formal in vitro drug interaction studies have not been conducted. No data are available on drug interactions between Serostim and HIV protease inhibitors or the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term animal studies for carcinogenicity have not been performed with Serostim. There is no evidence from animal studies to date of Serostim-induced mutagenicity or impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category B. Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits. Doses up to 5 to 10 times the human dose, based on body surface area, have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to Serostim. There are, however, no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Women: It is not known whether Serostim is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when Serostim is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: In two placebo-controlled clinical trials in which 205 patients were treated with Serostim the most common adverse reactions judged to be associated with Serostim were musculoskeletal discomfort and increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly of the hands or feet) (see PRECAUTIONS: General). These symptoms were generally rated by investigators as mild to moderate in severity and usually subsided with continued treatment. Discontinuations as a result of these events were rare.

Table 1: Controlled Trials Adverse Events

*Adverse Event	Serostim (n=205)	Placebo (n=150)
	%	%
Musculoskeletal discomfort	53.7	33.3
Fever	31.2	29.3
Increased tissue turgor	27.3	2.7
Diarrhea	25.9	20.0
Neuropathy	25.9	17.3
Nausea	25.9	16.0
Headache	19.0	20.7
Abdominal pain	17.1	18.7
Fatigue	17.1	16.0
Leukopenia	15.1	24.7
Albuminuria	15.1	9.3
Granulocytopenia	14.1	21.3
Lymphadenopathy	14.1	16.0
Increased sweating	14.1	8.7
Anorexia	12.2	9.3
Anemia	12.2	8.7
Vomiting	11.7	12.0
SGOT increased	11.7	6.0
Insomnia	11.2	9.3
Tachycardia	11.2	6.0
Hyperglycemia	10.2	6.0
SGPT increased	10.2	5.3

Because of the diverse clinical manifestations of AIDS, and the frequent occurrence of adverse events associated with underlying disease process, it was often difficult to distinguish adverse events possibly associated with the administration of Serostim from underlying signs or symptoms of AIDS or associated intercurrent illnesses.

Clinical adverse events which occurred during the first 12 weeks of study in at least 10% of those who received Serostim during the two placebo-controlled trials are listed below by treatment group, without regard to causality assessment.

Adverse events that occurred in 1% to less than 10% of study participants receiving Serostim in the two placebo-controlled clinical efficacy studies are listed below by body system. The list of adverse events has been compiled regardless of causal relationship to Serostim.

Body as a Whole: rigors, flu-like symptoms, back pain, malaise, asthenia, carpal tunnel syndrome (see PRECAUTIONS: General), chest pain, hot flashes, allergic reaction. **Gastrointestinal System:** oral leukoplakia, flatulence, dyspepsia, dry mouth, constipation, ulcerative stomatitis, increased amylase, dysphagia, esophagitis, colitis, pancreatitis, rectal disorder, gastritis, tongue ulceration, gingivitis. **Musculoskeletal System:** muscle weakness. **Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** dizziness, convulsions, hyperreflexia, neuralgia, tremor, encephalopathy, nystagmus, meningism. **Respiratory System:** dyspnea, coughing, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection, pharyngitis, rhinitis, pneumonia, bronchitis, increased sputum, respiratory disorder, bronchospasm, pneumonitis, pleurisy. **White Blood Cell and Reticuloendothelial System Disorders:** cervical lymphadenopathy, eosinophilia. **Skin and Appendages:** skin disorder, folliculitis, rash, alopecia, photosensitivity reaction, erythematous rash, pruritus, abnormal pigmentation, seborrhea, dermatitis, skin ulceration, acne, skin discoloration, verruca. **Psychiatric:** depression, anxiety, somnolence, nervousness, appetite increased, amnesia, abnormal thinking. **Metabolic and Nutritional:** hypertriglyceridemia, increased alkaline phosphatase, dehydration, increased creatinine phosphokinase, increased LDH, glycosuria, hypokalemia, cachexia, thirst, acidosis. **Immune System Dysfunction:** moniliasis, bacterial infection, Pneumocystis carinii infection, viral infection, infection, Herpes simplex, sepsis, abscess, fungal infection, Herpes zoster. **Urinary System:** hematuria, urinary tract infection, nocturia. **Liver and Biliary System:** abnormal hepatic function, hepatomegaly, hepatitis. **Vision:** retinitis, abnormal vision, photophobia. **Platelet, Bleeding and Clotting:** thrombocytopenia, purpura. **Cardiovascular, General:** abnormal ECG, heart murmur, hypertension, hypotension. **Application Site:** injection site pain, injection site reaction. **Neoplasms:** Kaposi's sarcoma. **Male Reproductive:** epididymitis, penis disorder, inguinal hernia. **Hearing and Vestibular:** earache, ear disorder, decreasing hearing. **Endocrine:** gynecomastia, male breast pain.

The types and incidences of adverse events reported in an open-label, extension trial and in a single, foreign trial, for up to one year, were not different from, or greater in frequency, than those observed in the primary, placebo-controlled, clinical trials.

OVERDOSAGE

Glucose intolerance can occur with overdosage. Long-term overdosage with growth hormone could result in signs and symptoms of acromegaly.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Serostim® [somatotropin (rDNA origin) for injection] should be administered subcutaneously daily at bedtime according to the following dosage recommendations:

Weight Range	Dose*
>55 kg	6 mg SC daily
45-55 kg	5 mg SC daily
35-45 kg	4 mg SC daily

*Based on an approximate daily dosage of 0.1 mg/kg.

In patients who weigh less than 35 kg, Serostim should be administered at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg subcutaneously daily at bedtime. Dose reductions for side effects felt to be related to treatment with Serostim, which are unresponsive to symptomatic treatment, may be effected by reducing the total daily dose or the number of doses given per week.

In patients who continue to lose weight at week 2, reevaluate for concurrent opportunistic infections or other clinical events.

Injection sites should be rotated.

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

Each vial of Serostim 5 mg or 6 mg is reconstituted with 1 mL sterile water for injection. To reconstitute Serostim, inject the diluent into the vial of Serostim aiming the liquid against the glass vial wall. Swirl the vial with a gentle rotary motion until contents are dissolved completely. The Serostim solution should be clear immediately after reconstitution. **DO NOT INJECT** Serostim if the reconstituted product is cloudy immediately after reconstitution or refrigeration. Occasionally, after refrigeration, small colorless particles may be present in the Serostim solution. This is not unusual for proteins like Serostim.

STABILITY AND STORAGE

Before reconstitution: Serostim should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Expiration dates are stated on product labels.

After reconstitution: Use within 24 hours after reconstitution with diluent. The reconstituted solution should be stored under refrigerated conditions (36° - 46°F/2° - 8°C).

Sterile Diluent, 1 mL (Sterile Water for Injection, USP) should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Avoid freezing vials of Serostim and Sterile Diluent.

HOW SUPPLIED

Serostim is available in the following forms:

Serostim vials containing 5 mg (approximately 15 IU) somatotropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP. Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0005-7

Serostim vials containing 6 mg (approximately 18 IU) somatotropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP. Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0006-7

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Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

July 1996



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April 1997

SLI-97-8057

COMMUNITY NEWS

Maximum MAX in Feb.

by Shan Schwartz

Men's Associated Exchange, the Bay Area's largest gay men's social organization, kicks off February with a TGIF social Friday evening and its annual general meeting this Sunday afternoon.

MAX is a nonprofit, non-partisan, member-supported organization with more than 800 members. Its mission is to support a positive identity in the gay community through social, travel, philanthropic, athletic, and educational activities.

The annual meeting will be this Sunday, February 8, at the Swedish American Hall, located at 2174 Market Street (near Sanchez). Lunch is at 1 p.m., followed by the general meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Rick Sneed, Vice Chairman of MAX, said the annual meeting is an opportunity for everyone to meet MAX's board of directors, talk to the board and other members, and hear a synopsis of all the organization's committee activities.

Financial and committee reports will be followed by a question-and-answer session, where

members can provide input on MAX's management and general operations.

This Friday is the day for MAX's regular TGIF social where members and non-members can mix and mingle. The TGIF socials are on the first and third Fridays of each month, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the City Club, 155 Sansome Street, 10th Floor. Admission is free for members and \$5 for guests.

"And half the attendees are usually guests," Sneed said.

Other MAX activities coming up in February include:

- MAXParty Valentine Dessert and Coffee night; Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. Call Mike Barsul at (415) 331-1850 for location and to RSVP.

- Gucci is hosting MAX members in its Union Square store on Friday, February 26, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Gucci will provide drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and a preview of its new men's trunk line. MAX will collect \$5 from guests to go toward its Community Center fundraising efforts. RSVP to Jim Acker at (510) 595-1987.

Besides several monthly events, MAX is planning several travel excursions in 1998, Sneed said. Tickets are still available to

the Palm Springs Easter Weekend White Party April 10-13. Tickets are \$490 for members and \$565 for guests, including airfare and lodging in the event's host hotel.

Other MAX trips in 1998 will venture to Puerto Vallarta, Key West, Rio de Janeiro, the Gay Games in Amsterdam, and frequent trips to Los Angeles to see shows.

1998 also marks MAX's tenth anniversary, and Sneed said plans are underway for a big anniversary party. The event will be Saturday, April 25, at the Yerba Buena Gardens Center for the Arts at Third and Mission streets.

The event will benefit the new gay and lesbian community center and will be open to the public. Tickets to the anniversary party are \$60 in advance and \$75 the week of the party. ▼

Attendance at Sunday's meeting is free for MAX members or \$5 for guests. To RSVP, call (415) 442-1994. For membership information, call the 24-hour membership hotline at (415) 841-9123. More information about MAX is also available on the Internet at www.maxonline.org.

Statewide U.C. queer conference to be 'Exposed!' in Santa Cruz this weekend

by Vicky Kolakowski

The University of California Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Association will hold its ninth annual conference at U.C. Santa Cruz's Porter College this Friday, February 6 to Sunday, February 8.

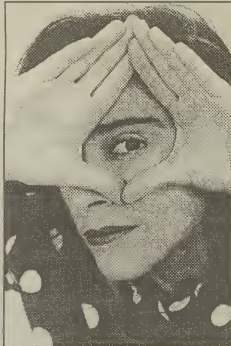
The name of the conference, "Exposed!," refers to a dual theme of coming out as individuals and of discovering "hidden communities," such as racially diverse populations and transgendered people.

This year's conference is drawing major speakers, with keynote speeches by both Human Rights

Campaign executive director Elizabeth Birch and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Kerry Lobel. Both organizations are co-sponsoring the conference.

Other main speakers and workshop leaders include University of Michigan professor Tomas Almaguer, transgender photographer Loren Cameron, and sex expert Annie Sprinkle. Comic Marga Gomez is performing a show in connection with the conference. ▼

For more information, contact UCSC's Porter College at (408) 459-2273.



Marga Gomez

LA HRC dinner to honor Coretta Scott King

by Karen Ocamp

Last August, a niece of civil rights hero Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held a news conference on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento to announce that her uncle would never have wanted his name connected with the struggle for gay and lesbian equal rights. The following day, the Los Angeles chapter of the Southern Leadership Conference, an organization King founded during the anguished early days of the civil rights movement, held a news conference to contradict King's niece. But in politics and pulpits the debate continues. Perhaps the appearance of Coretta Scott King, King's widow and standard-bearer, at the Human Rights Campaign's annual Los Angeles dinner this Sunday, February 8, will put the question of King's position to rest.

Coretta Scott King is being honored for her "extraordinary lifetime of commitment to the civil rights community, which was particularly manifested for the gay

and lesbian community through her amazing, instrumental support on behalf of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act," says HRC's Tom Gaynor. Although King has spoken in front of gay and lesbian groups before—including one HRC event in New York City 10 years ago—Gaynor says honoring King in Los Angeles emphasizes the "high priority" the national organization places on the Southern California gay and lesbian community.

"L.A. plays a pivotal role in the civil rights movement in this country. California matters. And HRC is not a Beltway organization. We are a national organization recognizing a national figure, and L.A. is an appropriate place to do that," Gaynor says.

If remarks made at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force dinner are any indication, King will quell questions of her family's commitment. "I still hear from people who claim to be followers of Martin Luther King Jr. but who think I should be silent about the human rights concerns of gays and lesbians," King said

last September. "All I can do is tell these folks that the civil rights movement that I believe in thrives on unity and inclusion, not division and exclusion. All of us who oppose discrimination and support equal rights should stand together to resist every attempt to restrict civil rights in this country."

Actress/activist Judith Light will also present Lorri L. Jean, executive director of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, with HRC's Community Leadership Award. Betty DeGeneres, Ellen and Anne's mom and HRC's National Coming Out Day spokesperson, will debut a public service announcement produced by the gay Hollywood group, OUT There. Also on hand will be Al and Jane Nakatani who, after losing two sons to AIDS, became involved with an organization formed to protect the Hawaii Constitution under assault during the gay marriage debate. ▼

For tickets, call (800) 494-8497.

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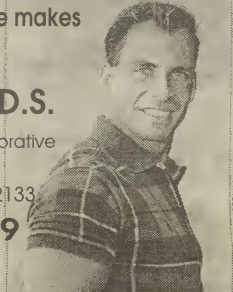
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Rabble-rouser bounced from Castro Street Fair board

by Mark Mardon

Amid allegations that heterosexuals have spent years inordinately dominating the Castro Street Fair's board of directors and siphoning most of the annual event's proceeds out of the queer community, last week a majority of those directors voted their own leading critic out of his board seat. The action has prompted intense debate inside and outside the Castro neighborhood, and may generate a sizable

turnout for a February 28 city hearing about the 1998 fair's permit.

Edward Goehring, who has long questioned the virtue of a gay-oriented street fair being run primarily by heterosexuals, and who, since joining the fair board in 1995, has repeatedly insisted on examining the nonprofit organization's financial records and nonprofit charter, left the board meeting in defeat last Friday, January 30, having been voted out by six of his seven fellow board members.

"That part of the meeting was short and fairly ugly," Goehring said of the fair board's decision not to re-elect him. "Then they voted to ask me to leave the building, and so I did as graciously as I could."

After Goehring left, the board voted Steve Gaynes, who for years served on the Folsom Street Fair board, to fill the vacant seat.

The board meeting was closed to the public and press, as are all of the board's sessions.

Carpetbaggers ... in the Castro?

In recent weeks, Goehring had mounted an increasingly public and sometimes acrimonious assault on the organization's straight executive committee members. He charges that they have illegally and undemocratically declared themselves "sole directors and overseers of the fair," relegating the board's few queer representatives to an essentially advisory role.

Goehring also accuses the board's straight directors of suppressing dissent within the organization, stonewalling in the face of demands for financial information, and of being "carpetbaggers" who live outside of the Castro and give back too little of the fair's proceeds to the gay, lesbian, bisex-

ual, transgender community.

"The fact that all of the straight board members pay themselves for their work on the board (including one who receives an annual percentage of the fair's proceeds, totaling up to \$6,000) ... casts doubts on the propriety of the fair's tax-exempt status," Goehring wrote in one of many widely circulated e-mail letters on the subject. He neglected to mention in his e-mail broadcast that he, too, was paid for his services.

Since 1989, until the executive committee dismissed him from his duties in early January (prior to the full board's giving him the boot), Goehring had been in charge of coordinating the fair's security, communications, and medical logistics.

Goehring told the B.A.R. that his annual earnings from his work of \$1,000 to \$2,500, along with those of his crew and the entertainers — all mostly queer — accounted for only nine percent of the fair's \$282,584 in expenditures over the past three years.

By contrast, he noted, the money shelled out by the straight promoters to themselves and their mostly straight stage, cleanup, booth-marking, sign-making, and food-and-beverage crews, accounted for a hefty 35 percent of the expenditures during that same

period, by far the largest figure in the fair's debit column.

Goehring said he gleaned that percentage from the fair's audited financial report issued on January 10, the first such report he has shown in two years of asking.

In Goehring's calculations, when the percentage for "straight" salaries is added to ones representing outlays to "non-gay-community" providers of equipment rentals, beer, accounting, rent, supplies and other such necessities, the total spent by the fair "outside the gay community" comes to a whopping 89 percent.

On average over the last three years, said Goehring, a mere two percent of the fair's gross revenues were returned directly to the queer community, in the form of grants to nonprofit groups such as the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center and the Merchants of Upper Market Committee. Those two groups received an equal share of last year's \$5,000 donation, which represented 4.7 percent of the fair's total revenues of \$105,440.

Goehring said he is heartened at the increase in donations over previous years, but the percentage is still far too small for his satisfaction.

Almost as disturbing to Goehring are inconsistencies he has spotted in comparing January's financial statement with one he was given from 1995. While the earlier report indicated the fair grossed \$94,959, the latter tally sheet reports earnings of only \$86,472.10, a difference of \$8,487.

"Where did that money go?" Goehring asks.

Goehring said there's no way he or anyone other than executive committee members or their accountant can know how accurate the financial statements are, since no one other than the board member in charge of concessions sees or counts money taken in during the fair. He claims that even as a board member, he had no access to receipts or other documentation.

Gay/straight litmus test?

High percentages on the "straight" side of the fair's ledger sheet are not surprising for a board that has been dominated by heterosexuals for years, said

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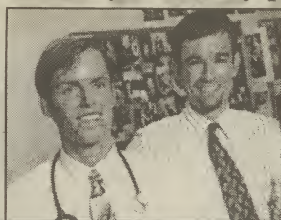
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Goehring, a transgender man. When he joined the fair's board, he was its only gay member (while Goehring readily acknowledges his transgender identity, he prefers to be identified as gay). Currently the board consists of three gays and four "non-gays."

All four of the non-gay board members, Pablo Heising, Richard ("Rick Slick") Thomas, and Dick Carnes, reportedly worked with Harvey Milk in organizing the fair, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

"Harvey Milk mentored me and Jake," said Heising, who also operates the annual Haight Street Fair. "We worked with Harvey until he was killed, then we worked with [Milk's lover] Scott Smith."

Goehring finds Heising's claim dubious. "No one I've ever heard of agrees with that except him," he told the *B.A.R.*, adding that Smith, a friend for years, "never mentioned Pablo being Milk's successor."

Heising, for his part, said that Goehring has had "a troubled relationship with the board. He thinks it should be all gay. He has tried to split it along gay/straight lines."

One of the fair board's current gay members, Michael Meracle, who manages Walgreen's Drugstore on Castro Street, concurs.

"Apparently for him [Goehring] it's important to determine who's straight and who's gay," he said. "If that's the litmus test, we've got more problems than he's presenting. He's more concerned about straight versus gay, which is very divisive."

Heising also dismisses interpretation of the split between gays and straights as far as distribution of fair proceeds goes. He notes that Goehring is leaving out all of the fair's gate receipts, which are collected by and distributed to nonprofit organizations operating primarily within the Castro and serving mainly the queer community.

"Gate receipts totaled \$24,000 last year and were collected by 13 organizations," he said.

Goehring responds that gate receipts are counted separately and are not tallied on the fair's own financial reports. In a footnote he appended to one of his own breakdowns of the fair's finances, he wrote that "although the [Castro Street Fair] promoters have none-too-graciously 'allowed' community/neighborhood non-profit groups to collect donations at the fair's gates, the fair itself has never returned more than \$5000/year to the Castro or the LGBT community (out of \$100,000+ in income each year)."

"He's accusing people of being thieves," said Meracle of Goehring. "It's very inflammatory. He sounds very much like a disgruntled employee."

Beneficial to all

Meracle adds that while "there have been problems in the past, when the promoters didn't give enough back to the community," that situation has been mostly rectified.

"I'm there to make sure whatever happens [on the board] is beneficial to merchants and residents of the Castro," said Meracle. "I've lived in the Castro for 10 years. I heard no criticism of the 1997 fair. It received high praise from all the vendors, police, and merchants."

Meracle also disputed several of Goehring's other assertions, and suggested that he has a hidden agenda.

"It's not true Jake and Pablo declared themselves the executive

committee," said Meracle, noting that he, too, serves on that committee. "They're the ones who do 90 percent of the production of the fair. I don't know how many people in the Castro have the wherewithal to put on this type of event."

"Maybe [Goehring's] motive is he wants to take over the production of the fair," speculated Meracle. "I don't know what his agenda is." However, he added, "I think Edward has a monetary stake in this."

Goehring dismisses the suggestion, saying he'd heard it before from Heising.

"It has been suggested to me that I intend to take over the fair," said Goehring, "but I'm not interested in being the sole person running the event. I'd be interested in coming back to the same job. If a majority thinks it's fine the way the fair operates, I won't complain. I have no particular stake in the outcome."

To gay board member Leigh Christopher, the whole affair with Goehring and the Castro Street Fair board was an unfortunate product of personalities and history.

As the only board member who voted to let Goehring keep his place at the table, she said she "was concerned that if things weren't illegal, they at least seemed questionable, and I said I hoped we were going to answer some of these questions, not argue about who likes who, or

who told whom what. I'm still going to ask how much things cost and whether we're going in the right direction."

Part of the issue, in Christopher's opinion, is that nonprofits have changed dramatically in the 25 years since the Castro Street Fair became organized.

"It certainly is dominated by straights," Christopher said of the street fair board, "and I think that should change. I see how that happened, as people left, the production guys were left. The four of us who are gay are brand-new. I feel Pablo and Jake and the rest of them were left with it and held on to it."

"Our community doesn't volunteer en masse. I'm optimistic that that's changing." ▼

A hearing on granting the 1988 Castro Street Fair permit will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday, February 26, at the San Francisco Department of Parking & Traffic, 25 Van Ness (at Market), Suite 345, ISCOFF Hearing Room. Those planning to attend should inform the DPT office at (415) 554-9811 well in advance. Those unable to attend the hearing who wish to express their opinion may contact SF ISCOFF, Attn. Cindy Shamban, SF Dept. of Parking & Traffic, 25 Van Ness, Suite 345, San Francisco, CA, 94102; phone (415) 554-2341; or fax (415) 864-2412.

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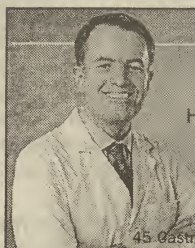
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Rec Center

◀ page 1

member of the Open Space Committee who wants the recreation center project to stay on track.

Although Weaver and all of his colleagues on the Open Space Committee support the pool project, and have so far allocated \$1 million toward its completion, they balk at the idea of pushing it ahead of the EVRC and other projects.

Weaver said that the acting general manager of the Parks and Rec Commission, Brown appointee Joel Robinson, wants to

bankroll the Bayview pool by taking away \$100,000 from the rec center, as well as some \$900,000 in fund designated for other efforts, such as preserving open space for endangered species. Yet those are funds neighborhoods have slowly but steadily banked through the Open Space Committee for completion of their own projects. Diverting them would constitute a breach of the committee's protocol, said Weaver.

"The typical way to fund such a project would be for Bayview to take its turn, banking money over a period of years," Weaver said. "That would be fair."

Weaver suspects Brown wants to do an end run around all other neighborhoods in order to score a touchdown in Bayview, where his fans are legion. He imagines Brown feels politically indebted to Bayview residents, who gave him nearly unanimous support last June in his quest to build a new 75,000-seat stadium for the 49ers football team, as well as a 1.4 million-square foot mall.

Recreation and Parks acting general manager Robinson was not available for comment when the *Bay Area Reporter* attempted to reach him. However, the commission's liaison to the Open Space Committee, park planner Joanne Wilson, told the *B.A.R.* that the open space fund currently is running a \$2.8 million deficit, and must deal with the consequences, which means having to say "no" to many projects. She also confirmed the Bayview pool is a high priority for the general manager, and said, "A lot of funding is needed to implement that project."

"We are recommending reprogramming funds from other accounts, then we'll build back their funds over the next four or five years."

What do the kids say?

Among those most ardent in their support of EVRC's expansion — and outspoken in opposition to the idea of diverting any portion of the center's expansion funds to another project — are the many queer youth who regularly use EVRC's facilities.

The EVRC collaborates closely with its neighbor across the street, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), to provide programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth ages 23 and under.

"We provide a nice, safe space for the kids to hang out in," said Mitch Thompson, 32, who over-

sees EVRC's youth programs. "We always have food, from peanut-butter sandwiches to dinners. We play videos, read, listen to music. We have a garden that the kids and I started. About 230 kids came to a recent dance here, and there were no fights, it was clean and sober, and everyone cleaned up afterwards. In February we'll have a bake-off, a festival of movies, a Valentine's Day party, and a field trip to the snow."

On a recent Saturday afternoon, in a large room upstairs in the recreation center, about a dozen youth were kicked back, either lounging on couches, snacking on food, drawing at a table, or watching the classic drag-queen camp film *Vegas in Space* on a video monitor.

One 18-year-old, Laurence Sears, said he has been coming to the EVRC for three years. He lives in the Bayview district, which despite having two boy's clubs has no safe space for queer kids.

"This is the only gay rec center," Sears said. He was among a group of youth who recently testified at a meeting of the Open Space Committee, arguing for the need to expand the rec center.

"I don't think it's right to take money away from here," he said.

Another youth, 22-year-old David, said he has been coming to the recreation center since he was 18. Celeste, a 23-year-old transsexual, said she first came to the recreation center last October, after escaping from the socially oppressive environment of San Diego. She currently stays at an Episcopal sanctuary for the homeless, but spends a lot of her time at the center "hanging out and bugging Mitch."

According to Thompson, who clearly has earned the respect and

friendship of all the youth he supervises, the youngest person currently taking advantage of the center's programs is 13 years old, "though occasionally there's also a 10-year-old whose father brings him here."

Thompson noted that most of the youth using the recreation center are teenagers who have been kicked out of their homes for being queer, are ostracized in school for the same reason, and have no place else to go where they feel wanted and safe.

"Quite a lot of my kids come from Hunters Point, the Excelsior, and the Richmond," Thompson observed. "About 28 percent are African-American, another 25 percent are Latino, 14 percent are white, and 14 percent are Asian. We also have lots of Pacific Islanders and kids of mixed ethnicity."

Thompson bristled at the notion that the center's planned expansion might have to be deferred or scaled back because of Brown's desire to push forward the Bayview pool project.

"We worked pretty hard to earn the seed money for this project," he said. ▼

The Eureka Valley Recreation Center hosts queer-youth events Mon. through Fri., including after-school programs from 3-6 p.m., Wed. and Thurs. night gatherings from 6-9 p.m., and "Pink Saturdaze" from 1-4 p.m. Contact Mitch Thompson at (415) 554-9528.

For information on the next meeting of the Citizens Open Space Advisory Committee, or to express your views on the funding of the EVRC, call the Recreation and Parks Commission at 831-2701.



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Queer pinball

◀ page 1

Brown said. But "Go Girl!" has caught the eye of pinball game makers, after winning awards last year in Las Vegas and Los Angeles game conferences. Although "Go Girl!" may never be produced for the masses, it is a game one must experience to fully appreciate.

To play "Go Girl!" one must step into an oversized pair of red six-inch heels that sit on the floor in front of the game. A cross-dressed Ken doll spins as the ball goes into play, and the ball immediately faces some knock-down bumpers of three notorious homophobes: Lou Sheldon, Jesse Helms, and Fred Phelps.

The ball continues to roll through zones of queer history as local celebrity drag queens egg you on with words like, "She is on fire!" or, "Oh honey, your lipstick's smudged!" As the ball is shot through the "Castro Cruise," footage from past pride parades is displayed on the video screen.

Standard pinball terms are given a gay edge throughout the game: drag queens scream "Jackpot," and the "Free Game" light is re-written as "Same Queen Again." And to get to multi-ball, one must light up a series of targets spelling out "Get it girl!"

Multi-ball is the culmination of all the game's features. Prior to the "drag show," the live video camera comes on and displays the player's face in a drag fashion frenzy. The player hits the flipper until the wig of choice is displayed, and then the player's image (in drag) is saved into the game for future display. Well-skilled players might even reach "makeup mode," where they can apply lipstick and eye shadow.

Players can even check the game's web site at a later date to see their "drag-enhanced" picture up on the Internet!

Better with a group

The game is fun for a single player, but Brown said it's just as much fun to watch, and even more fun to play with a group. With so much going on in the game, it takes more than one pair of eyes to catch everything.

And you don't have to be gay to enjoy it, either. Brown said even his dad, a career truck driver, became obsessed with the game's antics.

"If I can take my father over the edge with this game, anyone will enjoy it," Brown said.

Well-traveled pinball fans might recognize the game's structure as an old pinball game called "Earth Shaker," which was made in 1987. While the bumpers, ramps, and flippers are in the same place, "Go Girl!" is a complete make-over from the original game that occupied its case.

Enhanced with the video screen, camera, and a 486-processor at its core, "Go Girl!" might actually be a predecessor to pinball games of the future. Brown said game makers at Sega Corp. are interested in bringing video into their new video games, and "Go Girl!" has shown them how it can be done.

After its stint at The Stud, Brown said, "Go Girl!" might tour through other gay bars throughout San Francisco in the coming months.

"But it'll have to end up at The Detour," he said, "because that's where it was born." ▼

**Read more about Go Girl! at the game's web page:
www.exo.net/michaelb/gogirl/gogirl.html.**

Preservationist to assess Fallon Building for Community Center board

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project (CCP) has retained preservationist architect Jay Turnbull to conduct another feasibility study for the proposed community center at 1800 Market Street. Turnbull is expected to determine whether the project can incorporate the 103-year-old Fallon Building that now occupies the space, which the CCP board unanimously decided last September should be demolished to make way for an all-new center.

The CCP board of directors approved Turnbull's hiring January 21, prompted by an agreement made with Friends of 1800 Market Street and the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. Barbara French, the CCP director who was involved with the negotiations, told the B.A.R. the study will be completed in time for the next meeting with Heritage on Tuesday, February 17. Friends of 1800 Market Street representatives were pleased with Turnbull's selection.

"As part of the agreement, we said we would go back to the CCP board and do another feasibility study to look at retaining the Victorian," said French. "This study will re-cost the project." The CCP board authorized up to \$10,000 for the re-assessment.



A reprieve may be in the works for the decaying Market Street structure.

On February 3, Turnbull told the B.A.R. that he has visited the building with architects Jane Cee and Peter Pfau, and said an all-team meeting with engineers and consultants will take place soon.

"It's an important building historically," he said. "It is old and in poor condition, but the quality of the exterior and some of the interior is worth holding on to."

"I think the building is worth tak-

ing another look at, and am happy the board went in this direction."

The agreement between the CCP and preservationists also postponed action to determine if the Fallon Building is an historic landmark, until March or later.

In a related matter, ongoing problems of squatters in the Victorian were discussed at last month's CCP meeting. Dave Latina, the building committee chair, said that although the CCP shut off the building's utilities months ago,

electricity has somehow been turned on or squatters are using extension cords. Also, he said, locks have been removed and walls have been opened, causing even more damage to the building.

A property management firm that has had success with what Latina described as "difficult properties" has been consulted and is expected to work with the Tenderloin Neighborhood Task Force to help people who are on the property illegally. ▼

Latino Dems

◀ page 5

for office in 1996, but was unsuccessful in winning a seat on the San Francisco Community College District Board of Trustees. He is active in the Bay Area Lesbian and Gay Nonpartisan Alliance, and is a member of the city's Telecommunications Commission.

Some of the Ambiente Club's initial projects will include identifying the voting patterns of queer Latinos; voter registration; fighting homophobia within the Latino community; and supporting and promoting LGBT Latino Democratic candidates for political office.

"We have our home at last, in which we can begin to seriously give voice to and form our own opinions on issues that are important to our community," said

Najar, who serves on the city's Small Business Advisory Commission and is co-owner of the Andorra Inn in the Mission District. "I believe that having our own club shows the maturity and responsibility that our LGBT Latino community is assuming, and we look forward to working with the other Democratic clubs to ensure that the Democratic Party is open to all." ▼

Saturday's meeting and social takes place from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Andorra Inn, located at 2438 Mission Street. For more information about the club, call Estrada at (415) 239-6612, write 343 Monterey Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94131, or check out their web site at <http://www.sf-events.com/gaylatino>.

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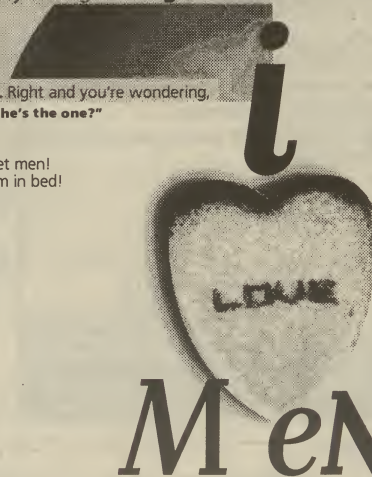
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'Art bank' closed, some grants end Visual Aid faces challenges in '98

by Cynthia Laird

After eight years in existence, the nonprofit organization Visual Aid Artists for AIDS Relief is facing what may turn out to be its most challenging year yet. The unique agency was founded in 1989 by a group of artists, collectors, and art dealers who shared the belief that artistic expression makes a significant cul-

tural and historical contribution to society. Unlike better-known AIDS service organizations that provide basic services such as medical, housing, or food to a wide clientele, Visual Aid focuses only on artists with AIDS (plus a few with other life-threatening illnesses). Besides helping them continue their creative work through several channels, it was created to help artists deal with the loss of income they often experience when

they get seriously sick.

"An illness often isolates an artist, and they may be afraid to step out in the art world," Visual Aid Executive Director Jim Fisher said. "It's all about giving the skills and materials to help motivate them."

In the case of Visual Aid, that means providing artists with supplies, workshops, and opportunities for them to exhibit and sell their works.

But for right now, that means dealing with a loss in revenue; the closure of its most popular program, the art bank; and questions about its finances.

9% or 29%?

Recent changes have significantly affected Visual Aid's revenue; most notably, a three-year \$75,000 grant from the James Irvine Foundation ended in 1996. Also that year, Visual Aid's federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 showed only \$18,168—or 9.32 percent of its reported annual budget of \$194,934—was distributed to clients in the form of vouchers that can be redeemed like checks at 47 local arts suppliers.

Recently, after activists at the www.accountabilityproject.com web site posted copies of Visual Aid's IRS forms from 1992 through 1996, Fisher and board member U.B. Morgan met with the *Bay Area Reporter* to go over the financial records and talk about some of the issues the agency now faces.

According to Fisher and Morgan, the total value of vouchers that Visual Aid handed out to clients in 1996 was closer to \$27,000, but the agency was only required to report the \$18,168 in vouchers that clients redeemed by year's end. Moreover, Fisher told the *B.A.R.*, there is no waiting list for vouchers, and all eligible people who have requested vouchers have been served. Money that is raised for the program but not spent is either carried into the next year or used for other services for artists.

Fisher said that in 1996, Visual Aid distributed \$55,000 in donated art supplies free to clients through its popular art bank (the figure was \$95,000 in 1997, and \$25,000 in 1995). Although "that's not reflected in the 990s" because in-kind contributions are not reported, when those donations are considered both as revenue and grant output, direct aid in 1996 comprised nearly 30 percent of the agency's expenses.

Surprisingly, Morgan and Fisher said the art bank was far more popular among clients than the voucher program, even though both programs are free. "Some artists don't need vouchers," Morgan told the *B.A.R.* "Visually everybody uses the art bank."

"We have been real lucky to get donations of supplies and materials," said Fisher, adding that he constantly follows up with current and prospective companies to solicit donations. "We are not an endowed organization, every year is a real struggle. In a dream world, the staff and board would create an endowment, and that would help underwrite program vouchers."

Fisher and Morgan also pointed out that Visual Aid is legally required to spend most of its funds—including the Irvine Foundation grant—for organizational development, and cannot divert them for program costs such as the voucher program. That is bal-



Jim Fisher and U.B. Morgan with Irwin Sinclair's Bay Bridge portrait.

anced by spending revenue generated through fundraisers on clients only, and not on administrative expenses.

Perhaps most importantly, Visual Aid does not receive federal money, and only a small portion of its budget is provided through city and state funds, including a \$5,880 grant from the California Arts Council and \$17,750 from the city's grants for the arts and hotel tax fund in 1996. The hotel tax money was spent on marketing and exhibitions, and the state funds were used for the newsletter, Fisher said.

The agency has two paid staffers, and although Fisher declined to reveal his annual salary, he said the only paid employee besides himself is Jeffrey Longhenry, who serves as program director. Both men answer the phones, talk to any visitors, and perform all the other office work. Records from 1996 show \$69,590 was spent for both salaries.

"I make a little more, he [Jeffrey] makes a little less," Fisher said, adding he routinely puts in 60-hour weeks. Fisher is only the second top administrator at Visual Aid, where he has been at the helm since March 1995. He moved to the Bay Area from Texas, with 11 years of experience as a museum curator.

The 1996 records also show expenditures of \$20,628 for printing and publications, including newsletters and invitations to various events; Fisher said Visual Aid averages 15 shows a year. A \$3,050 stipend was used in 1996 to hire someone to help manage an event for a photography exhibit, and for some people to do some photography work, Fisher said.

Fundraiser Saturday

People interested in helping add to Visual Aid's funds for vouchers and other client services will have that opportunity this Saturday, February 7 at a "Lady Luck" casino fun night in San Francisco. The \$25 ticket price includes admission and \$10 in game money. Donated art work will also be on display and for sale, some of it priced under \$100.

Most years, the organization has only two main sources of in-

come besides grants and contributions. Under One Roof sells Visual Aid items, and the agency has a very successful annual fundraiser called "Big Deal," where people and companies donate art that Visual Aid sells at a fire sale price of \$75 each. The money from Under One Roof, the Big Deal events, and the sales of a few other donated artworks goes toward the voucher program, since grant money cannot be used for the program. The one exception has been that a portion of funds Visual Aid received from the San Francisco Arts Commission in 1995 and 1996 were spent for vouchers.

At the moment, Visual Aid has six works donated by the Rfeef Corporation for sale, including a beautiful 1937 Irwin Sinclair painting of the Bay Bridge that Fisher hopes will bring in \$6,000. Unfortunately, the organization has been unable to find adequate space to display the paintings and attract interest in them.

Until last year, the paintings and all the art bank materials were housed in a free space on Bush Street. Last October, however, the building owner found a paying tenant to rent the space, leaving Visual Aid out in the cold.

"Our incredible need is for a free space for the art bank," said Fisher. "It wouldn't have to be large, the old one was about 450 square feet." Ideally, the agency hopes to find about 1,200 square feet of space, so its offices could be at the same site. "We'd like to remain downtown to be close to gallery shows, Muni, and BART."

Visual Aid could also use that larger space for its regular workshops, which address both practical and theoretical art topics—from photography, framing, and welding to estate planning, building an archive, and career management. Visual Aid's monthly artist salon also brings artists together to critique new and old work. Volunteers present the workshops and are involved with just about every aspect of Visual Aid, Morgan noted.

The program serves eligible clients in 10 Bay Area counties. Approximately 50 people currently utilize the agency's services. Applications are accepted regularly

page 26 ►

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Positive Resource: It's working

by Stephen LeBlanc,
ACT UP/GG Writers Pool

In 1992 Mark Misrok had been driving a San Francisco cab for four years. He had attended two prestigious universities, but with dozens of friends ill and many dead from AIDS, he recalls, "I spent most of the 80s waiting to get sick myself. The idea of me developing a career seemed absurd."

Misrok did not get sick, "and I became increasingly distressed that I wasn't doing work that challenged me. I heard of a project that helped HIV+ people find employment called Positive Resource and immediately registered with them. I thought they would understand how I had gotten stuck for so many years."

Today, Misrok is the coordinator of Positive Resource, and both his and the Project's accomplishments are impressive. In 1997, Positive Resource held employment assistance orientations for 433 new clients and placed 482 HIV+ people in jobs. It established a computer skills training program that trained HIV+ students in four different courses. During 1997, Positive Resource completed a transfer from its original home at the AIDS/HIV Life Center to merge with AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC).

Services provided by Positive Resource are free to HIV+ people and employers and have expanded during the last three years. "When I first volunteered in '92," says Misrok, "we did strictly job matching and spent most of our efforts contacting potential employers, but volunteer support has allowed us to provide more services. In 1995, we began a weekly vocational counseling workshop with sessions on interviewing, self-employment, job searching, etc. Since the merger [with ABC], we've added voice mail services, educational workshops, and a support group for HIV+ people beginning new jobs."

Misrok cites the project's computer training courses as one of its most successful endeavors. "Our clients were hesitant to take classes not specifically set up for people with HIV. It's terrifying for someone with HIV to make the decision to plan a future. I thought that if we set up specific classes for HIV+ people, they would be comfortable taking the risk."

The assessment was apparently correct. Since the first class in December 1996, Positive Resource has filled all of the 98 available class slots and roughly 200 students are wait-listed for future classes. "I approached the Support Center for Nonprofit Management, and they agreed to let us use their computer lab, which they had never done for an outside group. I spoke at the Castro Lions Club about what we were trying to do, and through that found a volunteer instructor who established several of our courses. The students have accomplished amazing things. Five of our multimedia class students, most of whom had barely used a computer before, are just completing a full interactive CD ROM project through the Bay Area Video

Coalitions Media Link Program that includes a multimedia tour of three San Francisco neighborhoods. We have received a \$50,000 grant from Academy of Friends so we can establish our own computer lab to provide more classes."

Community support makes the difference

Misrok credits the success of the agency to many factors. "In 1996, our budget was under \$30,000, so we've always relied on strong volunteer support. Our neutral location [at California and Van Ness] is accessible to many different communities. We are sensitive to how long it can take a person with HIV to make an employment change and have built relationships with other assistance sources such as California Department of Rehabilitation. We are in partnership with the International Association of Machinists Life Employment Program (IAM CARES) and have gotten great support from the Golden Gate Business Association. Many people with HIV don't realize the high level of employment and training support available, and we make referrals to all the different available programs."

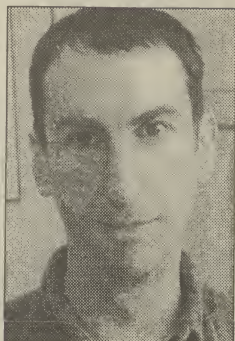
Other community activists point to Misrok's leadership as the source of much of Positive Resource's success. Cynthia Goldstein, an attorney with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, reflected the sentiment of many people asked to comment about Positive Resources. "Mark has done a wonderful job. He is extremely dedicated and cares very much about the people he serves. I don't think Mark is looking for glory; he is looking for the grit, and I really admire him for that," she said.

"He was a godsend to that agency," echoed David Bach, of Bach Personnel.

Enter the AIDS bureaucracy

Until recently, Positive Resource assisted HIV+ people getting jobs with little attention from established AIDS agencies and little financial support. "Even in 1996, many organizations didn't understand why people with HIV would want employment services," explains Misrok. "Some gay-owned businesses were always good at helping HIV+ people stay working, but lots of other employers, even many AIDS organizations, weren't educated about the issue at all."

That has changed dramatically in the last few months. Community activists expressed surprise at the amount of attention given the issue by the Mayor's Summit on AIDS & HIV and at the recommendations of the Summit's Subcommittee on Workplace Entry and Re-entry. Some activists fear that an effective grass-roots agency is about to be replaced by an unnecessary bureaucracy. The 37 Workplace Entry and Re-entry recommendations in Mayor's Summit Report include creating a new committee, of the San Francisco Health Commission, a new Employment Program Unit and Unit Director within the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH), and an advertising campaign.



Mark Misrok

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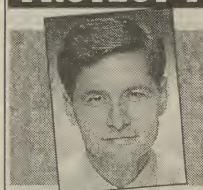
RESEARCH STUDY OF HIV-NEGATIVE GAY MEN

I am completing my doctoral dissertation in clinical psychology at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology in Palo Alto, California. Volunteers are needed to complete a 60 to 90 minute questionnaire. The questionnaire examines your feelings about yourself and the world, your sexual activities, and your experiences of personal loss(es) of partners, friends, and acquaintances to AIDS. Volunteers must be HIV-negative, reside within the San Francisco Bay Area, and be between the ages of 18 to 44.

If you would be interested in participating in this study, please contact Mark Jurek at 1-800-331-1010. Upon calling, you will be asked to leave your name, address and home telephone number. Questionnaires will be mailed to all participants.

Thanks for your interest!

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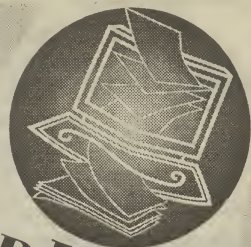
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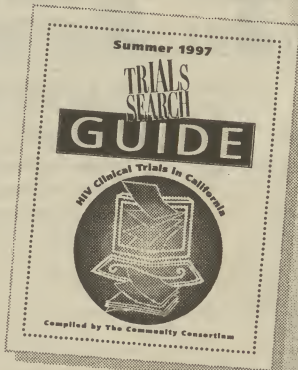


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OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Alan Jeno Battocchio

January 18, 1998



looks. His eyes were the bluest of blue. Alan was for many years one of the best upholstery cutters in San Francisco.

Al Battocchio died on Jan. 18 in San Francisco. He will be remembered by his many friends in the City, the Russian River and Europe for his expansive charm, sharp tongue and sensational good

He worked for a well-known fine furniture manufacturer and design house.

For the last several years, when not traveling in Europe, he worked as a gardener and resort chef at the River and in the City. Alan had a little-known passion for opera and classical music. And he was a wild child.

Alan is survived by his mother, brothers and sister near Salt Lake City, Utah. There will be a memorial gathering in his memory on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 1 p.m. at the far west side of the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. All who knew him are welcome.

Farewell, Alan. You are missed.

Treading the boards

A new B.A.R. guide to ASO meetings

This is an incomplete list of San Francisco AIDS service organizations (ASO) and prevention agency board meetings taking place in February, plus any procedure that members of the public have to complete before attending the meeting.

AIDS Benefits Counselors

Board of Directors meeting
Paul Causey, executive director
Thursday, February 19; 7 p.m.
1675 California Street
Conference room
Anyone can drop in;
free parking in building.
Info: (415) 703-9943

AIDS Emergency Fund

Board of Directors meeting
Loren Berthelsen, board president
Thursday, February 12; 6 p.m.
1540 Market Street, Suite 320
Anyone can come, pizza served.
To present, leave message.
Info: (415) 558-6999

Continuum

Board of Directors meeting
Bill Glenn, executive director
Wednesday, February 18; 6 p.m.
255 Golden Gate Avenue
Non-board members need to call 24 hours in advance, because it's a secured building. Leave message for board secretary at (415) 437-2900

National Task Force on AIDS Prevention

Mario Solis-Marich, chief executive officer
Saturday, Sunday, February 21-22 all day
973 Market Street, 6th Floor
Call in advance so seating is available; anyone welcome.
Info: (415) 356-8104

Project Open Hand

Board of Directors meeting
Tom Nolan, executive director
Tuesday, February 17; 5:30 p.m.
730 Polk Street. Anyone can drop in. Info: (415) 447-2468

San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Board of Directors meeting
Pat Christen, executive director
SFAF's procedure for public attendance at board meetings can be obtained by calling (415) 487-3070 or visiting SFAF's web site at www.sfaf.org.

Shanti

Board of Directors meeting
Bob Rybicki, executive director
Tuesday, February 24; 5:45 p.m.
1546 Market Street
Anyone can drop in.
Info: (415) 487-4730

Future meeting information should be sent to Cynthia Laird at the Bay Area Reporter, 395 9th Street San Francisco, CA 94103, or call (415) 861-5019. Local nonprofit HIV/AIDS groups may submit board meeting information by Friday, February 20 for inclusion in March's listing.

A B.A.R. CLIP 'N' SAVE

February PolitiCalendar

Meetings of interest to the community throughout February, listed in order of each group's first event this month:

SF Youth Commission
February 5, 19; 5-7 p.m.
City Hall, Room 207
401 Van Ness Avenue
(Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday)
Info: (415) 554-6446

L/G/B/T Pride Celebration Committee
February 8; 5 p.m.
1390 Market Street, Suite 1225
Fox Plaza office building
(Meets 2nd Sunday)
Info: (415) 864-3733

Board of Supervisors
February 9, 17, 23; 2 p.m.
City Hall, 4th floor
401 Van Ness Avenue,
For committee meetings, call (415) 554-5184

Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club
February 9; 7-9 p.m.
Piaf's
1686 Market Street
(Meets 2nd Monday)
Info: (415) 522-3809

Out on the Island
February 9; 7 p.m.
City of Alameda's gay community action group
(Meets 2nd Monday)
Info: (510) 337-1300

Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council
February 9, 23; 4:30 p.m.
For meeting location and committee meetings, call (415) 554-9136

ACT UP/Golden Gate
February 10, 17, 24; 7:30 p.m.
592 Castro Street
(Meets every Tuesday)
Info: (415) 252-9200

Queer Latino Political Action Committee (QL PAC)
February 12; 6:30 p.m.
Women's Building
3543 18th Street
(Meets 2nd Thursday)
Info: (415) 648-3702

HIV Prevention Planning Council
February 12, 26; 3-6 p.m.
Unitarian Church,
1187 Franklin at Geary
For committee meetings, call (415) 554-9000

SF Health Commission
February 17; 3 p.m.
SF Dept. of Public Health
101 Grove Street, Room 300
Info: (415) 554-2666
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday)

LGBT Advisory Committee
SF Human Rights Commission
February 17; 5:30 p.m.
25 Van Ness Avenue
(Meets 3rd Tuesday)
Info: (415) 252-2500

Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Community Advisory Board
February 18; 5:30 p.m.
SF AIDS Office,
25 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd floor
(Meets 3rd Wednesday)
Info: (415) 554-9000
L/G/B/T Community Center Project Board
February 18; 7 p.m.
City Hall, 3rd floor
401 Van Ness Avenue,
Info: (415) 241-1526

Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA)
February 19; 7 p.m.
507-B Divisadero
(Meets 3rd Thursday)
Info: (415) 273-1108

Harvey Milk Democratic Club
February 24; 7-9 p.m.
Cannabis Cultivators Club
1444 Market Street
(Meets 4th Tuesday)
Info: (415) 821-2217 x 2

Call for information about these February meetings:

Log Cabin Republican Club
(415) 522-2944.

CUSP: Community United for Sexual Privacy
(415) 627-4019

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ZERIT is approved for the treatment of HIV-infected persons who have already received prolonged AZT therapy. However, there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking ZERIT may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Please note that all HIV drugs cause side effects. ZERIT has been shown to cause tingling or pain in the hands or feet in 13% to 24% of people.

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing <60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 88 weeks (range 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline, 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic. Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

Table 1 -- Incidence of Disease Progression

	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	Zidovudine
	ZERIT	
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	18.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

*Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,784 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two doses of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT.

Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be cautioned that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physician and that these changes may be reversible if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Concealers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

Mild to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames test, reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenicity and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation).

*The parallel track program (STUDY A455-009) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had taken, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C₅₀) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy

"Pregnancy Category C." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C₅₀) up to 398 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incompletely ossified sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.3 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.17 L/m². The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/mL at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 16% to 125% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m². The percent of dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Modest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Table 2 Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification

	%		%
	Study A455-019 ZERIT (40 mg BID) (200 mg TID) (n=412)	Parallel Track Program ZERIT (40 mg BID) (20 mg BID) (n=595)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (20 mg BID) (n=587)
Peripheral Neuropathy			
Grade 1-2	11	3	20
Grade 3-4	2	4	17
Total	13	7	37

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials

	%		%
	Study A455-019 ZERIT (40 mg BID) (200 mg TID) (n=412)	Zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	
Adverse Events			
Headache	54	49	
Chills/Fever	50	51	
Diarrhea	50	43	
Rash	40	35	
Nausea and Vomiting	40	44	
Abdominal Pain	34	27	
Myalgia	32	35	
Insomnia	29	21	
Anorexia	19	8	
Allergic Reaction	9	2	
Pancreatitis	2	0	

*This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

Includes all clinical complaints.

Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Visual Aid

◀ page 22

and are reviewed quarterly. But Fisher said he's "remarkably flexible," and has helped clients who were too sick to wait for a formal review. He added that sometimes, an artist just wants him to look over a grant proposal for them, which he's often willing to do.

The majority are people living with HIV, but he has also worked with people who are not.

ACT UP

◀ page 23

"The HIV+ community didn't ask for this and doesn't need it," said HIV Health Services Planning Council Co-Chair Tom Calvanese. "We have an excellent, community-based agency with a great reputation meeting these needs and don't need DPH to become an employment service. If the Mayor wants to increase employment opportunities for HIV+ people, the city should give more financial support to Positive Resource and other existing agencies."

Laura Thomas, another Planning Council member, rolled her

last couple of years, one with hepatitis C, and one with heart disease," said Fisher.

Some clients become associated with Visual Aid for the opportunity to display their work. In 1996, Visual Aid artists displayed their art at City Hall and at the M.H. de Young Museum to commemorate Day Without Art, to honor the 10th anniversary of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Visual Aid artists also displayed their work at the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the community response to the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

ones when asked about the Subcommittee recommendations. "Let's just say I was surprised to read the recommendation that the Mayor appoint a member of the Health Commission to the HIV Planning Council."

"One of the two co-chairs of the subcommittee is already on the Planning Council, but has not participated in the planning process during the last year and is about to be thrown off the Council because he doesn't attend meetings."

Thomas pointed to subcommittee recommendations that seem to undermine the authority of the Council and added, "The Council has done a great job in the last two years of becoming representative of

one theater production raised several hundred dollars for the artworks' restoration. Fisher said that Johnstone declined his offer to reimburse for his materials. ▼

Saturday's casino night is from 8 p.m. until midnight at 1141 Polk Street, at Sutter. For information, call (415) 775-1722. For info about Visual Aid, call (415) 777-2242, e-mail: visualaid@visualaid.org, or check out their web site: visualaid.org

the community and knowledgeable in the needs of people with AIDS. I don't support any effort to undermine its authority."

ACT UP/Golden Gate activist Jelli Getty was characteristically blunt when asked about the Subcommittee Report. "I was disgusted when I read that section. Why wasn't Mark Misrok on the 14-member workplace reentry subcommittee or even listed in the two dozen acknowledgments? Why wasn't [AIDS Benefits Counselor Executive Director] Paul Causey?" asked Getty. "Positive Resource is an amazing project that should be supported to meet this growing need, but instead we get a recommendation for more government bureaucracy and an ad campaign. I'd like to know how many of the people who had a hand in drafting the recommendations stand to see their own professional and political careers benefit. The recommendations are about creating jobs all right — more jobs for AIDS bureaucrats."

Misrok is reluctant to talk about the issues raised by Getty. "I was not invited to be on the Workplace Subcommittee or to attend the forum on employment held the day after the summit," he said. "I am worried that a city-administered effort will not be as sensitive to the needs of HIV+ people as I think we have been."

When ABC/Positive Resource Executive Director Paul Causey was asked whether a city bureaucracy or his agency should provide expanded HIV+ employment support, he replied, "Look at the numbers. There are 15,000 HIV+ people in San Francisco, including people who don't know they have HIV, people who have always worked, and people who cannot work. Positive Resource today has over 1,234 active clients. AIDS Benefit Counselors has about 1,800 active clients, a third of whom have already talked to us about returning to work. So even if there are 3,000 HIV+ people actively looking to enter the workforce, and I don't think there are anywhere near that many, we have already done intakes and established relationships with maybe 2,000 of them. Why set up a separate program with new staff, a new director, and new intakes, when we are capable, with some additional city support, of doing that work?"

For the time being, Positive Resource remains the best source of employment information and assistance for HIV+ individuals seeking employment or to improve their professional skills. Their address is 1675 California Street (at Van Ness), and their phone is (415) 928-1448. They are actively seeking donations of money, volunteer time, office equipment, video equipment, and up-to-date computer equipment. Louis Dunn at the California Office of Rehabilitation can be reached at (415) 904-7147. ABC/Positive Resources is governed by a Board of Directors that meets the 4th Thursday of every month except June, November, and December. The public is welcome, and no advance notice is required. ▼

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities*

	%		%
	Study A455-019 ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	Zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	
Lab Tests (units)			
AST (SGOT) (<5.0 x ULN)	11	10	
ALT (SGPT) (<5.0 x ULN)	13	11	
Bilirubin (<3.0 x ULN)	2	2	
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL)	3	3	
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9	
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3	
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN)	14	13	

*This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

†Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

‡Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

§ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage included peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Table 5

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01). US Patent No. 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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Squash

by Jim Provenzano

I didn't think up a funny pun for this week's column, because I just love that word so much I wanted to see it in big letters. Squash.

Around the year 1148 the French played "le Paume," meaning "the palm of the hand," which developed into Jeu de Paume, Real Tennis, Royal Tennis or, if you play the sport, simply Tennis. At sometime in the early 19th century, this obsession with rackets and balls spawned another variety of the sport, in the unlikely birthplace of the Fleet Prison in London. The prisoners in "The Fleet," mainly debtors, took their exercise by hitting a ball against walls, of which there were many, with rackets, and so started the game of "Rackets." Rackets progressed, by some strange route, to Harrow and other select English schools about 1820, and it was from this source that our own sport of squash, or squash rackets, developed.

Squash was invented in Harrow school around 1830, when the pupils discovered that a punctured rackets ball, which "squashed" on impact with the wall, produced a game with a greater variety of shots and required much more effort on the part of the players, who could not simply wait for the ball to bounce back to them as with Rackets. It proved popular, and in 1864 the first four squash courts were constructed at the school, and squash was officially founded as a sport in its own right.

Move forward 130 years. A ball zooms across a small white court, bouncing off a wall, leaving one of a million dent marks in its path. Whacking the flying object back again is Wayne Bender.

Bender became interested in squash in his Yale days, which seems appropriate, given its school-based development. "It's a far more popular sport back east," he says of the cousin of

racquetball and tennis. When he came out to California to continue a grad degree at Berkeley, he was happy to find an on-campus facility and took up squash again.

Bender explains how squash differs from racquetball: "All walls and the ceiling are in bounds in racquetball. In squash, the ceiling is out of bounds." Also, the squash ball is harder and the racquet is a bit longer than in racquetball.

"It's a faster game," he says of squash, when compared to racquetball. "There's also more of a risk when playing with a stranger." A game is nine points, and you only score when you're serving. "You have to win by two points, so it can go on for a while."

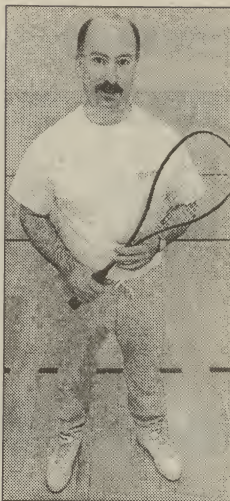
Since squash is an individual sport, the players tend to be not so group-oriented, so there really is no team or group. "I try to keep tabs on whoever's interested in squash," Bender says of the loosely-based group for lesbian and gay folk interested in squash.

In San Francisco, he says, "squash courts are hard to come by." The first squash competition at a Gay Games event was in Vancouver.

Conversely, while squash is popular overseas, its similar sport, racquetball, is not. The lack of facilities has left racquetball athletes high and dry. "They don't have them in Europe; they don't know what racquetball is," Bender said. "Squash is more international, probably one of the sports where Americans are the minority." According to Bender, at the last Gay Games, over half the squash competitors were from outside the U.S.

At the '94 Gay Games in New York, four people from the Bay Area competed. "We expect that many, if not more," to trek to Amsterdam this summer, he said. "At least four of us have registered."

Most of the people on the master list play at a few of the Bay clubs in San Francisco, but Bender spends time on the courts at



Wayne Bender

Berkeley as well. He is not aggressively training for Amsterdam, but regularly enjoys playing. "We're used to losing to Australians every year," he laughs. "They also win the gold medal. That's okay, though. They're good-looking!"

Truly, winning is not the point for him. "It's not a big part of it, whether I win a medal. The whole event is nice because it's a reunion." He looks forward to meeting some of the Australians, no doubt. "You get together with the same folks around the world. We've gotten to be friends."

Bender took bronze medals in squash in Vancouver in 1990 and New York's '94 Games, both in the Intermediate division.

There are 250 slots in the squash tournament, which will be held in the Frans Otten Stadium from Sunday through Wednesday of Gay Games. The first day of playing will be organized according to a poule system. Finals will be played in a knock-out system. All participants will play a minimum of three or four matches. People should indicate their level of ability when registering. The levels include:

- International (professional);
- National top (top 50 ranking);

- Competition level (50-500);
- Recreational with competition/tournament experience;
- Recreational without tournament experience;
- Women and men above 35; and
- Men over 45

For the 40-year-old Bender, squash is just one of many other activities that keep him healthy and active. He also does some cardiovascular workouts each week on a life cycle, and tries to play a couple of times a week. He plays on Monday and Thursday evenings at the Berkeley campus, but that doesn't mean folks interested have to stick to his schedule. He maintains a list so people can hook up and find partners, either for overseas or here at home. ▼

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GAY GAMES 1998

Demonstration sports (and designated divers)

by Erik Swierstra

In addition to the official program of 30 competition sports, for which people can simply register and participate, Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will present a program of six demonstration sports in which athletes can participate by invitation of the Gay Games organization.

The demonstration sports are: aerobics (every morning), handball, korfbal (a very popular sport in Belgium and The Netherlands), field hockey, equestrian sports, and fencing. These demonstration sports were added to make gay and lesbian sports more visible. For that reason, the demonstration events will be held at highly visible, open air locations, such as the Nieuwmarkt-square for team sports, and Friendship Village (in and around the City Hall and the Opera House) for aerobics and fencing.

In addition to the six demonstration sports, demonstrations will be held as part of the competition program (such as diving). The number of athletes who will be invited to participate in the demonstration events will be limited; registration forms will be sent on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Applicants' names will be placed on a list, and subsequently, the Gay Games organization will review the applications and determine who shall be invited to participate.

For an application to participate in the demonstration sports, contact Gay Games Amsterdam 1998, Sports Department, P.O. Box 2837, 1000 CV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The e-mail address is jkoomen@gaygames.nl. ▼

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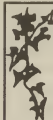
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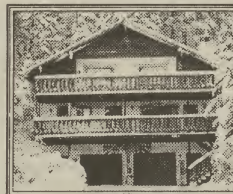
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 220076

The following person(s) are doing business
as One Half, 1837 Polk Street, San Fran-
cisco, CA 94109: Daniel P. Blackwelder,
2160 Steiner Street, San Francisco, CA
94115; Charles H. Cody, 1224 Taylor
Street #17, San Francisco, CA 94108.
This business is conducted by co-partners.
Signed Charles H. Cody. This statement
was filed with the County Clerk of the City
and County of San Francisco, CA on Janu-
ary 16, 1998.

Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 1998.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 219977

The following person(s) are doing business
as Red, Blonde, and Blue, 510 Church-
Street, San Francisco, CA 94114: David
Farris Parker, 85 14th Street, San Fran-
cisco, CA 94103. This business is con-
ducted by an individual. Signed David F. Park-
er. This statement was filed with the County
Clerk of the City and County of San Fran-
cisco, CA on January 13, 1998.

Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 1998.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 220244

The following person(s) are doing business
as Barton Installation, 900 Potrero Ave.
#7, San Francisco, CA 94110: Mark C.
Barton, 900 Potrero Ave. #7, San Fran-
cisco, CA 94110. The registrant com-
menced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name on
January 26, 1998. This business is con-
ducted by an individual. Signed Mark Bar-
ton. This statement was filed with the
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San Francisco, CA on January 26, 1998.

Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19 1998.

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LEGAL
NOTICES

proposal documentation. The closing
time and date for receipt of propos-
als is 5 pm on February 19 1998.

ducted by a corporation. Signed Stephan
Forget. This statement was filed with the
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quent and at risk youth in San Francisco are invited to
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at:

Mayor's Criminal Justice Council (MCJC)
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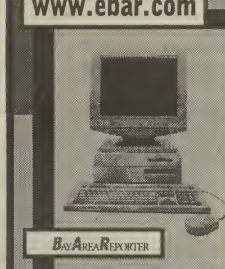
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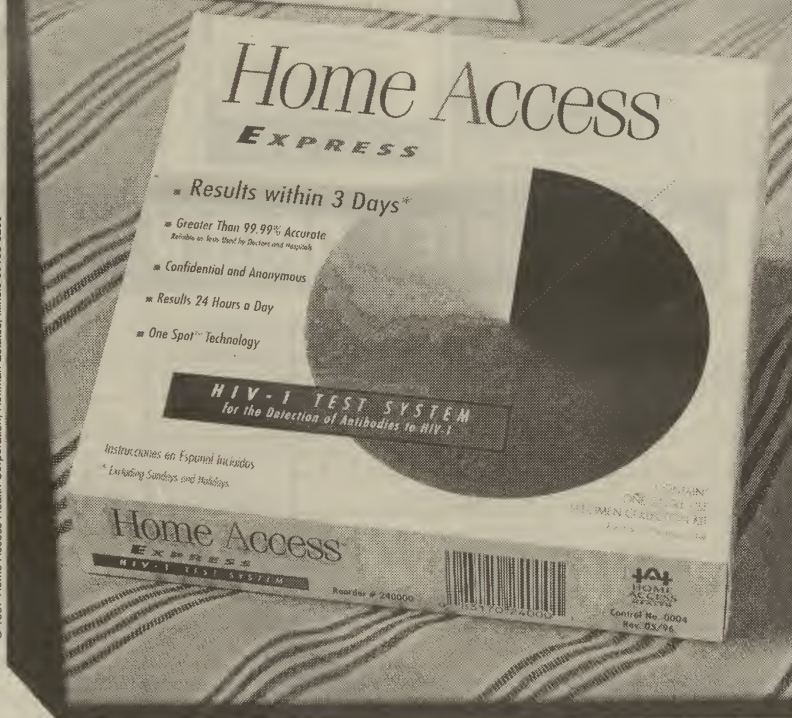
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The Leader in Telemedicine



Victoria Brownworth remembers a generation of important black gay writers and filmmakers now lost to AIDS.

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John Blanco verklempt over Latin Hustle's sassy 'Full Frontal Rudity.'

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Audre Lorde's work makes posterity in big new Norton anthology.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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TRANNNY SPICE

**Gender outlaw
Kate Bornstein
returns to print with
'My Gender Workbook'**

by Adrian Roberts

What I've found is a pretty interesting hole in the theory that there is actually such a thing as a real man or a real woman," says gender theorist Kate Bornstein in her latest tome, *My Gender Workbook*. Outlandish as that may sound, Bornstein's book convinces the reader to re-think one's assumptions about gender. Written in a style that Bornstein calls *theoryfuck* — an academic version of *genderfuck*, or the intentional blurring of gender-specific signals — *My Gender Workbook* mixes anecdotes, multiple-choice tests, practical lessons, and no little heady theorizing to drive home the point that gender is not what it seems.

At times, Bornstein's book proves thorny, but the author's wit and down-to-earth charm provide a compelling and realistic context for a fascinating discussion of gender and culture. I recently had the opportunity to meet Bornstein in a cyberspace chat room — one of the author's favorite "gender playgrounds" — to engage in a playfully antagonistic dialogue about her book.

Adrian Roberts: Okay, the throw-away question first: If men are from Mars and women are from Venus, where are you from, Kate?

Kate Bornstein: Gotta be Uranus. That's the sound byte. But really, I'm more like an intergalactic explorer.

"When it comes to gender theory, I'm the Spice Girls."

My editor claims that gender is irrelevant. What do you think?

I agree. It's way irrelevant, in the same way that race, age, class, and body type are all

irrelevant until someone oppresses us for one of those reasons. Or until we realize we've been stifling our self-expression because we never really examined that stuff.

So in other words, gender *should* be irrelevant, but the dominant culture won't let it be.

Bingo. Go to the head of the class, darling.

One of the key ideas in your book is the notion that we should "look for where gender is and then go someplace else." But let's face it, gender is *everywhere*. Outside of solitary confinement, where do you go where gender isn't?

If we believe we can create our own paths in life, even a little bit, then it stands to reason we can create a gender-free life.

You say that the "gender continuum" doesn't work because no one has really been able to locate the two supposedly fixed points — male and female — at either end. But why can't one's place on the gender continuum be subjective?

I think it's very natural for people in Western cultures to bracket experience with something we can measure. But where does that leave our spirits?

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Dana Ann McAdam

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

NEWFLASH! Just in from *Hollywood Today* comes a report that megacrones **Liza Minnelli** and **Faye Dunaway** are rumored to be working on a made-for-TV remake of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* Fighting might be the more appropriate verb for the preceding sentence as apparently Liza and Miss Waxed Fruit are not quite

simpatico on the casting. Both, it seems, want to play the evil, scheming **Baby Jane Hudson**. We have a simple solution to this monumental conundrum. Given Liza's ongoing hip problems, we think she'd be perfect as wheelchair-bound *Blanche*. And given Dunaway's increasingly scary facial makeovers, isn't she a shoo-in for *Baby Jane*? Think of the savings for the make-up department!

Political currency

As the current hit film *Wag the*

Dog shows, politics and Hollywood frequently make interesting bedfellows. Well, not always. Seems a **big Hollywood honcho** — hint: he just laid an enormous, stench-generating egg in Hollywood — was in the process of pitching a **Bill Clinton** biopic to a major studio three weeks ago when the first rumors of **Lewinskygate** began oozing from the tabloid press. Perhaps Mr. Director should consider the poor timing a blessing in disguise: Insiders tell us that the proposed Clinton pic was one of those sunny It's-Morning-in-America-type stories, the sort of thing no one at this late point in the sordid Clinton saga would ever mistake for the truth about our sex-besotted prez.

In other Clinton news, our close friend **Catherine DeNerve** called the other day to remind us of that wonderfully engaging *New Yorker* story a few months back in which **Paula Jones** described the prez's privates as being "five inches and the diameter of a quarter." Given these particulars, DeNerve wonders if we shouldn't replace **George Washington**'s head with Clinton's on the twenty-five-cent piece. DeNerve didn't specify which one of Clinton's heads she had in mind for the coin, but we certainly know which one we don't want to see.

Rotten eggs

Joe Eszterhas, that long-haired, big-bellied Marin County screenwriter, has a new film coming out at the end of this month. As if *Basic Instinct* and *Showgirls*

weren't enough, the bearded wonder has now penned a satire about a film director who steals the final print of his own big-budget action flick and burns it. The film is titled *An Alan Smithee Film — Burn, Hollywood, Burn*. A comedy presented in the form of a mock documentary, the flick is reportedly his most sophomoric yet. Eszterhas even makes a cameo appearance himself. Director

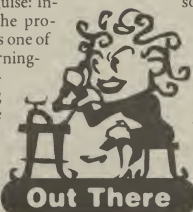
Arthur Hiller was allegedly so unhappy with the film that he had his name removed from the credits. Those who have seen the movie have expressed no little wonder at how Eszterhas manages to get work at all, especially when you consider that his going rate these days is in excess of \$3 million per screenplay.

Underscoring the oddball spirit of this endeavor, *Alan Smithee* features the paunchy, chronically unemployed **Ryan O'Neal**, who now has the jowls of a basset hound and the butt of a Sumo wrestler. **Farrah Fawcett** can thank her lucky stars that she got out when the getting was good — at least she won't have to show up on Ryan's arm for the premier of this turkey.

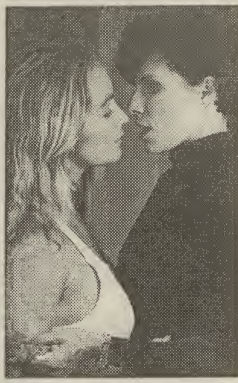
Donning gay apparel

We were on our way to see **Rodney O'Neal Austin's** *Now Entering Beavercreek* show the other day at the Center for the Arts when we noticed out of the corner of our eye someone who looked a lot like **RuPaul** stepping out of a movie trailer. At first we thought we were seeing things,

but after making a few phone calls we learned it wasn't just a figment of our imagination. Apparently America's favorite dragster has been in town shooting an episode of the **Don Johnson** detective series *Nash Bridges*. Details are sketchy, but we can tell you the episode has something to do with a murderous woman who attempts to elude police by pretending to be a transvestite. The episode, called "Coup de Grace," apparently climaxes in a big drag contest that detectives are forced to enter in order to apprehend the villain. Ru's part is a mere cameo, but it's better than nothing.



Out There



A scene from *Claire of the Moon*.

It's about me

We found ourselves retching all over a smart new suit the other day after reading *Lambda Book Report's* interview with **Nicole Conn**, perpetrator of the insipid 1992 film *Claire of the Moon* and
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A star is reborn

Julie Christie provides the luster in 'Afterglow'

by Robert Julian

In *Afterglow*, Alan Rudolph's offbeat new film, Phyllis (Julie Christie) is a washed-up B-movie actress who lounges around her Montreal home in a bathrobe. Phyllis curls up at the edge of the sofa to watch videotapes of her old movies while her handyman husband, Lucky (Nick Nolte), is off providing sexual services to housewives who interpret the term "general contractor" very loosely. Phyllis and Lucky have an asexual marriage, and a shared secret at the heart of their marital discord.

On the other side of town from Phyllis and Lucky, Marianne (Laura Flynn Boyle) is unhappily married to Jeffery (Jonny Lee Miller), a sexually frigid corporate climber. Marianne, alone in her desire for a child, hires Lucky to build a nursery. Lucky and Marianne begin an affair, and when they rendezvous at the Ritz-Carlton, Phyllis and Jeffery, who show up to spy on them, begin a flirtation of their own. The result: an inevitable head-on collision fueled by booze, cigarettes, and self-recrimination.

Nick Nolte, an actor of limited range, is perfectly cast as the philandering handyman. Lucky's banter, in which he seduces a housewife with a series of double entendres involving plumbing, is perfectly delivered by the

thick-necked, dissolute Nolte. Laura Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller make convincing a yuppie couple who try to handle significant financial success without the stabilizing influence of emotional maturity. And in the background, another score by the ubiquitous Mark Isham (*The Ice Storm* et al.) employs vibes, saxophones, and electronically produced sounds to highlight the emotional dissonance among the battling couples. Montreal, with its French influence, provides a sense of place that is both familiar and foreign, universal yet specific, and Isham uses French versions of songs like "What Now My Love?" to provide amusing ironic commentary on the antics of the lead characters.

Afterglow is the fourth film Robert Altman has produced for writer/director Alan Rudolph (see also, *Welcome to L.A.*, *Remember My Name*, and *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*). This collaboration of independent personalities guarantees a quirky, atypical product and, at least in this respect, *Afterglow* delivers. An idiosyncratic film with an improbable plot and overripe dialogue, *Afterglow* navigates the treacherous waters of "comedy-drama" and stays afloat, largely due to the luminous presence of Julie Christie as the actress/hausfrau. Rudolph gives Christie the best of both worlds: Phyllis sports frumpy housecoats at home, yet when she ventures out into the larger world,



Julie Christie as Phyllis in *Afterglow*.

she is impeccably dressed and coifed in a Hollywood diva style that Phyllis is not ready to surrender, despite her reduced circumstances. And Christie, at 57, remains a thoroughly captivating screen persona.

Alan Rudolph's script introduces some subplots that are abandoned or unresolved. Jay Underwood plays a co-worker of Jeffery's, and Domini Blythe portrays Jeffery's secretary. Underwood's character comes out as a

gay man, and both he and the secretary make veiled sexual overtures toward the constipated Jeffery. The introduction and puzzling abandonment of these subplots suggest scenes left on the cutting room floor.

Afterglow is not a great film, but it is very entertaining. Likewise, Julie Christie's performance is not a great performance, but it is a very good one. In a year with few memorable leading roles for woman, Christie is a shoo-in for

the Oscar. The character of Phyllis is bound to resonate with all those Academy members who failed to achieve success or abandoned their careers. And almost 33 years after her Best Actress Oscar for *Darling*, Christie still commands the screen like a bona fide movie star. ▼

***Afterglow* opens Friday, February 6, at the Embarcadero Cinema.**

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June Bride in February

Felder, Goodman in one-woman shows

by Deborah Peifer

Sara Felder is back in San Francisco. There could be no better news for those of us who love theatre. Felder, a juggler, comedian, playwright, and artist, has been touring internationally with *June Bride*, her sometimes metaphorical, occasionally painful, always engrossing "tale of a traditional Jewish lesbian wedding, only with a little more juggling."

I recently had a chance to speak with Felder before she left for two weeks of performances in Amsterdam. "The show has been completely reworked and re-ordered since I did it at Josie's in 1995," she explains. "I've been performing it all over the country since then, including the Yiddish Festival in New York. There were lots of Orthodox Jews in the audience, and I was quite scared, but they loved it."

Felder's gift is to present a piece that is gay-positive while at the same time respectful of Jewish tradition. "We look at our tradition, not to leave it, but to transform it." The play is based loosely on Felder's own struggle to find a way for her to marry her beloved in a traditional ceremony, despite the fact that Jewish weddings don't ordinarily include same-sex partners. Though it addresses a serious issue, *June Bride* is always entertaining, whether its star is juggling machetes while discarding on circumcision, or getting out of a strait-jacket while discussing how confining families can be.

The run of *June Bride* includes several post-play discussions, and panels with Felder, including: "Jewish Weddings: Changing Traditions" (February 15); "God Loves Queers" (February 19); and "The Politics of Same-Gender Marriage" (February 20). On February 25, you can see Felder's work-in-progress on queer Yiddish vaudeville.

Great theatre changes lives, and Felder makes great theatre. *June Bride* will make you laugh and cry and rethink everything you thought you knew about religion and marriage and other things. Don't miss it. *June Bride* is



Sara Felder in *June Bride*.

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mation, call 399-1809.

Musical notes

For all of you who missed the astonishing *Suede* at Josie's last week, you can sample her remarkable work on two CDs, *Easily Suede* and *Barely Blue*. Both are available at A Different Light and at Tower Records in the Castro. Although the CDs can't capture the magic of live performance, they do provide more than a hint of Suede's glorious artistry. This woman really can sing.

Josie's is adding a musical dimension to its programming with "Jazz at Josie's," a regular Sunday night program of live music. The series begins with the *Alex Weiss Trio* on February 15 and 22 at 8 p.m. Admission is free both nights. Josie's regular menu will be available, so you can have a little dinner with all that jazz. Call 861-7933 for more information.

Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, Josie's will present *Cultural Odyssey's* African Ameri-

can Performance Series, a cavalcade of music and spoken-word performances featuring such luminaries as *Rhodesa Jones*, *Victor Dupree*, dancer and choreographer *Robert Henry Johnson*, and the *Idris Ackamoor Quartet*. The series runs throughout February. Call 861-7933 for more information.



Rhodesa Jones

Across the Bay, *The African American Shakespeare Company* presents *Richard Brinsley Sheridan's* 18th-century comedy of manners *The School for Scandal*, updated to a modern Black setting. The show runs through February 14 at Mills College Theatre, 5000 MacArthur Boulevard in Oakland. Call (510) 430-3308 for reservations.

Potpourri

Hazelle Goodman, who recently made a big splash in *Woody Allen's* *Deconstructing Harry*, brings her one-woman show, *Things Going On*, to Osher Marin JCC for two performances, February 7-8. Call 479-2000 for tickets. Osher Marin JCC is at 200 North San Pedro Road in San Rafael.

The New Conservatory Theatre must be very excited about *Full Frontal Nellie!* How else do you explain the six press releases I received announcing the show, which features sketch comedy by the *Nellie Oleons*. The show runs February 12-28 at NCT, 25

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THEATRE

Nalgas and salsa

Latin Hustle: Hispanic Kids in the Hall

by John Blanco

During the course of their show *Full Frontal Rudity*, the members of Latin Hustle portray leather fags, straight barrio boyz, Spanish talk show hostesses, and Selena-obsessed Chicanas. In their ability to play both men and women, young and old as well as gay and straight, Latin Hustle—a local trio comprised of Jaime Cortez, Al Lujan, and Lito Sandoval—comes across like a Hispanic Kids in the Hall.

Like the Kids, Latin Hustle specializes in sketch comedy, a medium which lends itself to a wide range of characters. In one skit alone, "Corrections Connections," a spoof of a prison dating show, the trio presents at least a half-dozen characters, ranging from an addle-brained junkie to a tough-as-acrylic-nails transgender. The one thing all the disparate characters in this show have in common is their Latin heritage.

Nothing in Latin culture is safe from the trio's comic skewering. They even take on the beloved diva of *Tejano* music in "Selena Support Group." In this hilarious bit, grief over the murder of the singer brings together three Chicanas, including one young woman who believes she is Selena. The hefty Cortez steals the skit as the obsessed young fan who becomes enraged when her claim to be Selena reincarnate is laughed at. "Look at these nalgas!" Cortez demands, stroking his ample ass. "Once in a generation you see nalgas like these."

Understanding Spanish on a 101 level is helpful but not essential to enjoying *Full Frontal Rudity*. The Spanglish of the comedy troupe's routines won't prevent you from getting the gist of the jokes. And even if you don't know a word of Spanish, by show's end you'll be



The boys (and girls) of Latin Hustle.

fluent in expletives *Espanol*. These skits make it clear why Latin Hustle proudly describes itself as practitioners of "cochino comedy." Occasionally, the potty-mouthed trio isn't funny so much as sophomoric, as during *Full Frontal's* closer, "The Chavita Cho," a skit about a serial "buttsucker."

A better example of Latin Hustle's talent is "Sitting in the Park," a sketch about the cruising techniques of two butch-fag Chicanos, as played out by fuzzy hand puppets. The puppets add just the right note of absurdity as we watch the pair cruise passers-by, and each other, while strolling through a park. One of the puppets stands at the top of a hill to practice "natural selection cruising." "Only the fittest make it up here," he explains. "Not the old or the weak or the tweaked." The skit is a funny, nicely barbed lampoon of butcher-than-thou types.

Besides the naughty puppets,

Latin Hustle peppers their routines with rap and corrido music, and, in the case of "Corn in the Front Yard," a slide show. This skit begins with an upwardly-mobile Latina (Cortez) complaining on the phone to a friend about the changes along Watsonville's Campbell Street. "My own people have ruined the neighborhood," she says. As she grouches, the audience sees a slide of each home on the block she derides for its "high wetback" garishness. Some of the houses are actually charming, but in other instances the skit pokes fun not only at Cortez's bigotry and snobbishness but at the inarguable tackiness of these abodes. "Corn in the Front Yard" deftly pokes fun at the snob in all of us. ▼

Full Frontal Rudity runs February 5-7 in the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros. Call 861-5079 for tickets and information.

Lover be true

'Happy Anniversary' extends at Rhino

by Richard Dodds

In this season of hearts and flowers, *Happy Anniversary* is something of a funny unvalentine.

Lou Reda, author of the comedy now running in Rhino's Studio, makes a case against long-term gay romance with darts tossed at monogamy, boring nights in front of the television, and ritualized grocery shopping. But he makes a stronger case against being single. The unattached characters in his play are miserable, doomed to an unsatisfying succession of Mr. Right Nows.

Striking a chord with audiences (the play's run has been extended), *Happy Anniversary* puts under a microscope the relationship between Chris, a would-be writer struggling against the bonds of gay matrimony, and Mike, an older man who is contented and mostly forgiving of Chris' occasional infidelities. Their approaching fifth-anniversary party becomes the catalyst for a series of missteps that threatens to wreck the relationship even as the guests are arriving.

Reda, the director, producer, and playwright of *Happy Anniversary*, gave up a suit-and-tie job several years ago for a life in the theatre. Primarily an actor now, he displays a sure grasp of dramatic structure and a keen understanding of how to get a play from page to stage. He has also managed to corral several talented, appealing performers who add their own zip to the material, even when it sometimes falls into sitcom grooves.

Before the show opened last month, Reda said in an interview that the play was inspired by struggles with fidelity and commitment in his own relationship. Indeed, there is an unusual thoughtfulness to the debates that embroil the main characters, and the earnestness of their words is matched by the actors' delivery. As Chris, the aspiring writer who clerks at Macy's, Leon Acord has a quirky look and intense delivery that contrasts nicely with the solidly white-collar Mike of Tom Jermain.

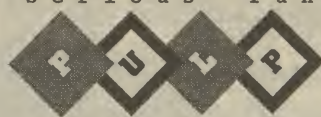
Both Chris and Mike have workplace confidantes, man-hunting, wisecracking queens who don't mind stirring up trouble. For Mike, it's the winning,

goldbricking Thom, whom Matt Weimer hilariously plays as a kind of young, world-weary variation on Paul Lynde. Gary Wayne Farris gives Bob, Chris' colleague at Macy's, a tightly wound snipiness that rings true. As Chris' best friend and erstwhile girlfriend, Christine Blake is refreshingly natural and subtly wry in her first Bay Area performance. Jett Pihakis and Steve Vickers complete the cast as various short-term partners of the other characters.

Happy Anniversary ends with an ambiguous image, but the happy ending Reda withholds would probably have been realized with an additional scene or two. Not that anyone is likely to argue for a longer play, for this surprisingly strong debut errs only in its occasional repetitiveness. Were it to lose 20 minutes, *Happy Anniversary* could easily become a staple of gay theatre. It's smart, sassy, and in its own way, romantic. ▼

Happy Anniversary continues through March 8 in the Studio at Rhino. For tickets and information, call 861-5079.

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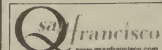
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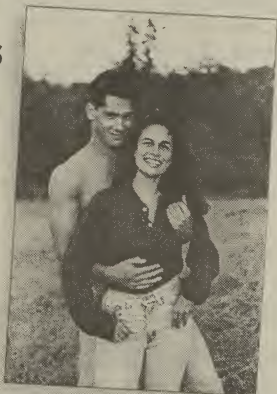


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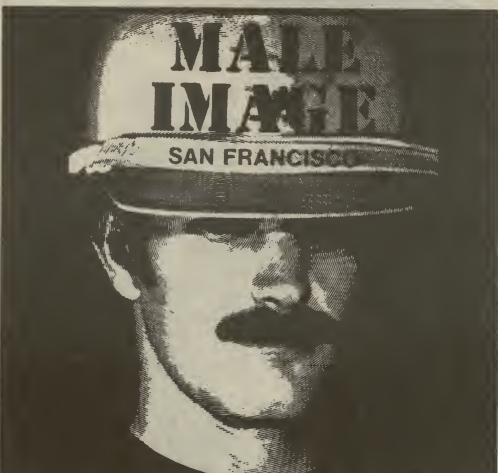


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Rhythm queen

Zoë Lewis and her Rubber Band

by Jef Valentine

Whoops of recognition greeted Zoë Lewis when she stepped on the stage recently at Josie's. The next hour showed why. An energetic performer who is equal parts musician, singer-songwriter, and storyteller, Lewis brings a confident and easy-going manner to a show that easily blends original songs and entertaining bits of autobiography.

A well-traveled lass from a seaside English village, her music has taken her all over the map, from Guatemala to Peru to Michigan. Along the way she's amassed some eclectic influences and a truckload of odd instruments. Backed by the Rubber Band (Kate and Sylvie), Lewis adds to accomplished piano- and guitar-playing a fluent use of harmonica, pennywhistle, kazoo, bongos, and a slew of stringed instruments and noise-makers. The result is an intricate blend of New Orleans jazz, Latin rhythms, and bluesy love songs.

Lewis' writing style is clever and evocative, her subject matter as kooky as her musical style. Clad in vest and trousers, Lewis plucks and twangs her way through



Zoë Lewis and her Rubber Band

songs about everything from shopping malls to sheep to the fabled nice cup a' tea. Her takes on various cultural oddities are entertaining. She recalls amazement at the idea of a drive-thru redwood tree and fright at the first time she saw Jiffy-Pop in action. Apparently the Brits are deprived of that snack, though they do have a little yummy called 4 Faggots—molded patties of sweet brains. And in case we didn't believe her, she brought along a package to prove it.

Sporting a mop of loose curls and an unmistakably English grin, Lewis is a charmer. Her speaking voice is soft and lilting, her singing voice light but bright, and occasionally punctuated by a Satchmo-style growl. She shows a fondness for human quirkiness and is affectionate when poking fun of everybody, including herself. Next time you find yourself in Botswana or a womyn's festival in Lodi, ask somebody where the stage is, and if Zoë Lewis is on it, sit down. ▼

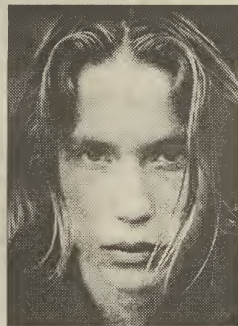
Youngblood

by Gregg Shapiro

Lie To Me, Jonny Lang (A&M Records)

It's a strange day when I recommend an album by a blues artist over a rock album, but that's the case with *Lie To Me* by Jonny Lang. A mere babe of 16, Lang sings like a cross between the love-child of Joe Cocker and the artist formerly known as Prince. The emotion and power in the young crooners' voice will have you reaching for a handkerchief.

Though indelicately young, Lang's artistry shows an uncanny command of music history. His covers wisely pay homage to great legends, Sonny Boy Williamson and Ike Turner, to name but two. The two Lang originals on this record, "Missing Your Love" and "When I Come To You," which he co-wrote with Dennis Morgan,



Jonny Lang

update the blues with grace, style, and pop flair. As usual with blues artists, many of Lang's songs sound alike. This is not the case, however, with "Back For A Taste Of Your Love" and "Hit The Ground Running." ▼

Curtain Up!

◀ page 36

Van Ness Avenue. Call 861-8972 for tickets and information. Also at NCT is the return of the witty and irreverent *Dirty Little Showtunes*. The musical revue runs through March 1.

Kid stuff

Young performers bring a special magic to theatre, and work by and for young people is being highlighted at various venues throughout this month. The **California Shakespeare Festival's** Young Performers' Workshop gets in on the act beginning February 7 with a one-hour adaptation of *The Winter's Tale*, Shakespeare's glorious tragic-comedy that turns on one of the great stage directions: "Exit pursued by a bear." Performances are at the Festival office, 701 Heinz near 7th in Berkeley. Call (510) 548-3422 for schedules.

Also, Cal Shakes is currently accepting applications for its Apprentice Program in Acting and the Professional Internship Program. For information and applications, call (510) 548-3422, extension 115. New Conservatory Theatre's Teen Performance Ensemble presents Carlo Goldoni's *commedia dell'arte* farce *The Servant of Two Masters*, on February 7-8. The show is recommended for children over ten. Call 861-8972 for information.

Finally, Berkeley Repertory Theatre is offering three public performances of this year's touring show, *Alicia in Wonder Tierra*, on February 14 (10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.) and on February 21 (10 a.m.) at La Pena Cultural Center at 3105 Shattuck; and again on February 21 (10 a.m.) at Berkeley Rep, 2025 Addison. Call (510) 841-2541 for information. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information you would like to share with readers, contact dpeifer@delphi.com.

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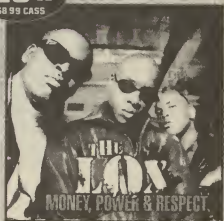
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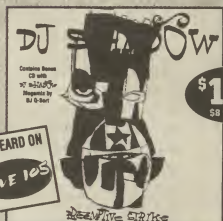
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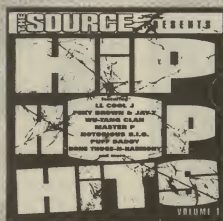
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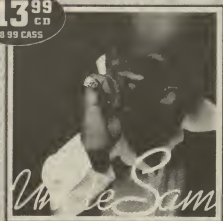
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Memento mori

The author reflects on a generation of important black gay artists lost to AIDS

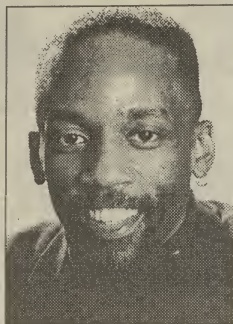
by Victoria Brownworth

This is a story for Black History Month. It is a story about black gay men, writers, who have died of AIDS. It is a story about my memories of them and about the place they hold in history — black history, gay history, literary history.

It is also a story about what happens when a lot of people with very strong and important voices die within a very short period of time. A void opens. A literary void and an historical one. These men were supposed to be the voices that would stir a generation after their own. They were supposed to grow into their art and beyond it. Their work was supposed to broaden over time, deepen, become richer, fuller, evolve out of the copious experiences of a life.

That will never happen because all of these men are dead; most of them struck down in their 20s and 30s, ages at which most writers are just learning the literary ropes. These men are all historical figures, but because their lives were cut short their voices could easily be lost amidst the long-lived, the prolific, the artists who never felt the same urgency to give the world their words while they still had the breath to speak them.

When Essex Hemphill died two years ago after a long battle with AIDS, I was shocked. It was not that his death was unexpected; quite the opposite. There had been many times in recent years when he was so ill that I had



Patented Photos

Essex Hemphill

thought, *this is it*. Like the time he collapsed during a book tour, his fever at 105, an abscess in his rectum filling his system with septic infection.

Assotto Saint was alive then. So was Melvin Dixon. So were Marlon Riggs, Steven Corbin, Arthur Johnson, Redvers Jean-Marie, Craig Harris, Donald Woods, and David Frechette. Joe Beam had only recently died. I talked to Essex in the hospital. He was in terrible pain, going in and out of delirium. But he wanted to give me a good interview, no matter what. That was the kind of man he was.



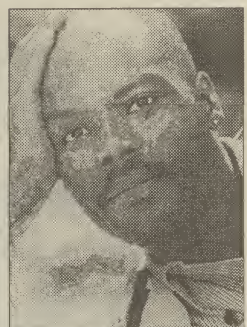
Bonnie Shuman

Assotto Saint

I called Assotto when Essex was in the hospital. I was depressed, he was angry. *Everyone's dying*, I said. We talked about AIDS, racism, silence. Assotto, who had collected the work of so many black gay men, was determined to keep the voices from being stilled. Assotto demanded a

coming out from every other black gay man he knew with AIDS. Assotto told me again and again that the silence was as bad as the virus. The silence, he said, would quiet us all.

Assotto is dead now. Of course, there are still black gay men keeping their art alive, Larry Duplechan, E. Lynn Harris, Randall Keenan, James Earl Hardy, Isaac Julien, Thomas Allen Harris, Bill T. Jones. There are still voices, but a whole generation of black gay artists has died, and in their absence there is silence.



Joe Beam

Joe Beam was one of the first strong, clear voices of his generation of black gay men. I had known Joe for years, seen him around Philadelphia for so long he was like scenery, tending bar at a restaurant I went to regularly, stopping into the office of the newspaper where I worked. It seemed Joe had been around forever and writing forever. Writing and not getting published — until Sasha Alyson, founder and publisher of Alyson Books, decided to take a risk on black gay writers — the first of many. The result was Joe's pathbreaking *In the Life*. Joe was the maverick who found the key to the gates that had been locked against black gay writers. He gave other black gay men conviction, made them think they deserved to be published as much as the white gay writers who filled the pages of *Christopher Street* and lined the shelves of *A Different Light*.

Joe was one of the first successes, the man who "discovered" the market for black gay books. But Joe was also one of the first

page 50 ▶

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Rebel woman

by Dan Blue

The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde; W.W. Norton, \$35

When Audre Lorde was four years old, she practiced writing her name. One day she dropped the Y and found she liked the symmetry of Audre Lorde. Arguably, the new name became her first poem and a model for those to come. For the rest of Lorde's life, when society tried to define her, she trusted poetry to reveal her true identity.

Self-definition was essential. Lorde was born in Harlem in 1932 and came of age in the McCarthy era. In that time of right-wing hysteria she experienced the full brunt of what it meant to be lesbian and Black (a word she always capitalized) in capitalist america (a word she lowercased). Friends could find her difficult. "Anger is what I do best," she observed, and her rages were electrifying. Further, as a black feminist married to a white man and later committed to a white woman, there were parts of her personality that were guaranteed to offend almost everybody. Yet she believed in telling the truth. As she told readers in the aftermath of a mastectomy, "My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you."

Lorde raised two children, taught at Hunter College, and wrote indispensable feminist essays until cancer finally struck her down in 1992. Through it all, she published eight books of poetry, two sets of selected poems, and five volumes of prose. (A posthumous volume of verse appeared in 1993.) Individual books brought little public recognition. Critics pigeon-holed her as black or lesbian or feminist and awarded token honors — citations of merit, honorary doctorates — rather than the major prizes she deserved.

With the publication of *The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde* — 400 poems spread over 500 pages — it's clear that she needed no special pleading. Audre Lorde was, quite simply, one of the most



Audre Lorde

exciting English-speaking poets in the second half of the 20th century. At the core of her achievement lay simplicity and directness transfigured into song. Consider the tribute to her mother in *Black Mother Woman*: "But I have peeled away your anger/down to its core of love." Or the image which bookends *A Question of Climate*: "I learned to be honest/the way I learned to swim ...and for years/my powerful breast stroke/was a declaration of war."

Lorde's poetry was inextricably linked to her personal values. She valued communion, and her poems were personal addresses. No pronoun was more common in her work than "you." She also loved the rhythms of seasons and human growth. Her poems teem with autumns and springs, children and parents. Finally, she liked to repeat a poem from one book to another. There were practical reasons for this (earlier volumes had gone out of print), but it also served a thematic purpose.

History revisited

by Deborah Peifer

The Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art; Penguin, \$18.95

Sometime at the dawn of time, when I was an undergraduate theatre major, I learned that until the 19th century, only men did theatre. When feminist scholars looked, however, they found lots of women doing lots of good theatre throughout history. Thanks to the *Guerrilla Girls*, the same observation about the presence of women in the visual arts can also be made.

The Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art is an excellent, albeit too brief, history of Western art, filled with fascinating facts, illuminating illustrations, and plenty of sharp wit. Using various formats, including imagined letters from dead artists, the *Guerrilla Girls* point out the myriad ways male critics and historians have man-

aged to write women out of history. An imaginary letter from Frida Kahlo includes the apt observation: "The world just loves women artists who are sad and dead."

Men make appearances in the text, too, often through quotes that would be funny if we didn't know already know how damaging they have proved to women. Consider Aristotle's assertion: "It is absurd to argue from an analogy with wild animals and say that men and women ought to engage in the same occupations, for animals do not do housework." Funny, I thought it was my father who said that.

This book is a fine and funny addition to any art history collection. It serves to remind us that women are everywhere, doing everything, if only we are willing to see them. ▼

The *Guerrilla Girls* will appear at A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books (601 Van Ness Avenue) on Monday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m.

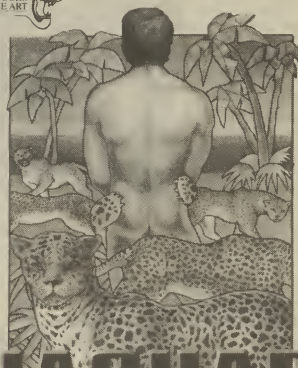
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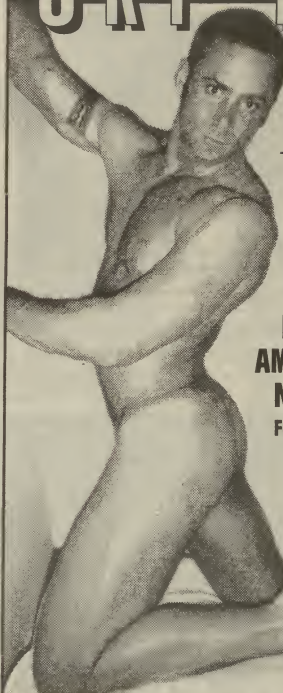
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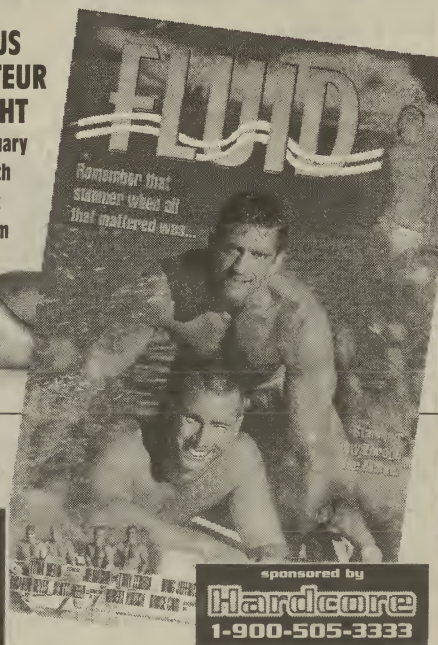
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Kate Bornstein

◀ Arts cover

Can those be bracketed? And what is gender, really, other than an expression of our spirits? I think this whole inspection of gender gives us something very earthly through which we can measure a spiritual journey.

The connection between gender and spirituality could be the basis for a whole other book!

(Wry chuckle) Well, I'd like to think it's the subject of this book, but I'll let that slide.

Back to the gender continuum—Why can't the ends of the spectrum be blurry and subjective?

Okay, let's suppose there is a continuum, defined by some blurry female thing on one side and a blurry male thing on the other. Don't you suppose there's going to be some ornery person who's going to say, "Whoa... blurry as it is, it doesn't include me!"

You can say that a continuum is one way that gender plays itself out in the world. It's even a very advanced way of looking at gender. But it doesn't take into account the degree of violence done to gender outlaws, or the power that is vested in being more perfectly gendered. And most importantly, the idea of gender as a con-

tinuum doesn't dismantle the binary.

So how can the gender binary be wiped out when so much of our culture is based on binaries—haves/have-nots, whites/non-whites, etc.?

(Chuckling) That's an easy one: The gender binary is

who won't take this workbook seriously because it's pink. I know that. Pat Califia already has assigned me to the "cute bimbo airhead" category in her book on transgender. (Shrugging) When it comes to gender theory, I'm the Spice Girls.

In your book you say that one is transgendered if they're not perfectly gendered, or if they gain a different perspective on gender from the one offered by the dominant culture. But if that's the case, about 99 percent of the planet's population is transgendered, and that just doesn't seem right.

Your point? Look, I'm really busy in this book trying to define transgender as something that is *not* an identity, but rather a *value*. And I couldn't do that if I put any barriers to "membership" to the concept. It's the closest I could come to framing a world view that includes me.

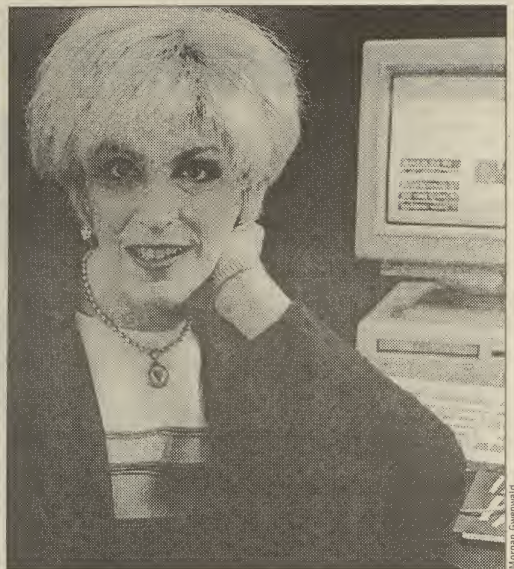
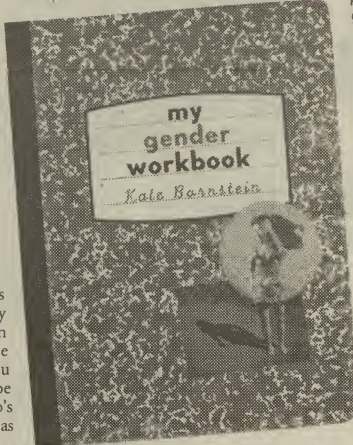
And that's the hidden agenda, right?

(Blushing) Yes.

Since you consider yourself "non-gender," do you still think of yourself as a lesbian?

Nope.

Because if a lesbian must be defined as a woman, you're off the hook, right?



Kate Bornstein, photographed on the set of *In the Life*.

(Chuckling) Well, I think we're at a turning point within the lesbian-trans world. We're redefining the terms "lesbian," "gay," "straight," and "queer."

For me, "queer" seems like a nice umbrella term for anything "not straight."

I think the terms "dyke" and "fag" are replacing "lesbian" and "gay man" as queer designations—queer being defined as the marker of a transgressive value, and less as a marker of sexuality.

It seems that most transgenders buy into the bi-polar gender paradigm and only want to blend in to the dominant culture as their chosen gender. Do you think these people hinder the transgender movement?

Good one. So we've got straight transgenders and queer transgenders, right? The transgender movement probably *needs* to embrace a form of identity politics if it's going to be heard. It says to the lawmakers that there's something called a "constituency" that can be pegged down.

Which is more difficult, living with or without a gender?

Each is high maintenance. Living without a gender imposes the need for consciously navigating a genderful world. Living with a gender imposes the need for an unconscious acceptance and maintenance. Me, I'd opt for con-

sciousness any day of the week.

I'm thinking of your comment about gender being a performance. Wouldn't it be more accurate to say that gender is mostly subconscious performance? At least for most people?

I think the word subconscious implies something integral to the person doing the thinking, whereas unconscious implies something we've bought into without much thought.

Do you ever feel like you're preaching to the converted?

I get accused of that a lot. And I think that if I were pontificating, then, yeah, that would be preaching. But all I'm doing is asking questions, the very asking of which might just fry some circuits. *My Gender Workbook* can be read and used by anyone, anywhere. Really. I know that the format will turn people off—they won't take it seriously. (Shrugging) I don't really mind. People don't take the Spice Girls seriously either.

Does all this gender theorizing give you a headache sometimes?

Big time! That's why this is (hopefully, really, hopefully) the last gender theory book I write! ▼

Kate Bornstein will be at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street, on Wednesday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m.

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BOOKS

Stranger in a strange land

by Jim Nawrocki

Andorra by Peter Cameron;
Plume, \$12.95

At one time or another, probably everyone has dreamed of escape — of leaving behind the everyday world and taking up residence in a faraway, perhaps exotic, locale. For most of us, tied by obligations to family and career, the idea of escape never becomes more than a fantasy. For the narrator of Peter Cameron's new novel, *Andorra*, however, it becomes a necessary reality.

The novel begins in mystery and unveils its answers slowly. We arrive with Cameron's narrator in Andorra, a tiny country between France and Spain in the eastern Pyrenees. Though the country is real, Cameron creates a fictional capital city, La Plata, for the action of his novel, and this blend of fact and fiction, truth and artifice, is echoed throughout the work in the deceptions the characters undertake with each other, and themselves. The narrator, who we later learn is named Alexander Fox, admits at the outset that he had once read a book about Andorra and thus became enchanted with the idea of going there. He also admits that he has come to Andorra to forget a great tragedy of his past, i.e., the accidental death of his wife and daughter.

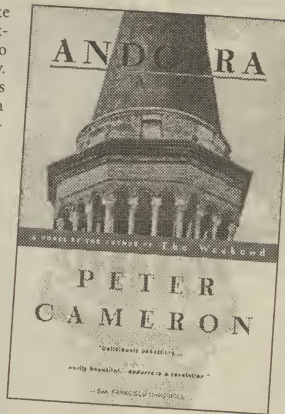
That's about all Fox reveals about himself, at first. For as much as *Andorra* is a novel in the first person (it is, in fact, Fox's journal), Fox is remarkably forthcoming about his state of mind. He is careful about what he chooses to reveal, both to those around him and, by extension, to the readers of *Andorra*. One thing that he does make quite clear, however, is that he needs the renewal of this strange country. After he checks in to his hotel room, he indulges in the exhilaration of the new: "I stood in the center of the room for a long time, allowing the glorious feeling of arrival to wash over me. Because we never know if we will get where we are going, it is always a relief to arrive there [...] I was starting anew." Fox is intent on exploring Andorra, and the reader begins to suspect that his curiosity about the landscape, and his reticence about his past, is driven by fear of his interior, psychological landscape.

The opening chapters of *Andorra* contain vivid, evocative descriptions of the place and its character. Cameron sets the scene beautifully as Fox takes in his extraordinary lodgings, acclimates himself to the new country, and goes about, quite deliberately, assuming the role of what he refers to as his new life. One of his first acts is to begin recording his daily activities in a journal. He carefully selects a finely bound blank book from a stationery store and then purchases an equally expensive fountain pen to fill the pages. He describes these purchases in almost loving detail. Money is no object for Fox, and he seems to have all the time in the world, but we don't learn the reasons for this until much later.

Though Fox is eager to shed any attachments to his old life, he is drawn into new attachments perhaps more quickly than he anticipated. Not long after his arrival, Fox finds out that Andorra is a small country in every sense of the word. The residents seem to know of him before he even gets settled,

and they waste no time admitting him into their society. He meets Ricky Dent, a young Australian who lives in Andorra with her husband, also named Ricky Dent. Young and attractive, the curiously named Dents seem all too eager to count Fox as a friend, but his involvement with them takes on the dimensions of something much more than friendship, as he discovers that both Mr. and Mrs. Dent have an erotic interest in him. But that, of course, is not the end of the story.

In addition to the Dents, Fox meets and befriends one of the



oldest families in Andorra, and it is through his involvement with them, and the Dents, that we gradually learn about his past and the secrets that he carries. Fox comes to know Andorra as "too small a place to get lost in," and it is this sense of confinement that eventually

forces him to confront the very thing he had been avoiding all along: his own psyche. While *Andorra* is part murder mystery, it is also an entertaining and captivating tale of deception and psychological intrigue. Cameron takes his readers on a memorable trip. ▼

FILM



Bodies and souls

Rachel's Daughters, by Allie Light and Irving Saraf, is an investigative documentary about breast cancer. The film follows seven women living with the disease who travel the country interviewing experts in the field of breast cancer research and treatment. But *Rachel's Daughters* is no standard documentary. Light strikes a deft balance between the scientific information gleaned from the interviews and the stories of the personal struggles of the women living with cancer.

Light used a similar approach in her 1993 film about mental illness, *Dialogues with Madwomen*. Of *Rachel's Daughters* the director has said, "We've made it very captivating. It's not one of those voiceover documentaries people used to make. These women are vital, the issues very immediate." ▼

—Judith Redding

Rachel's Daughters plays the Castro Theatre Thurs., Feb. 5.



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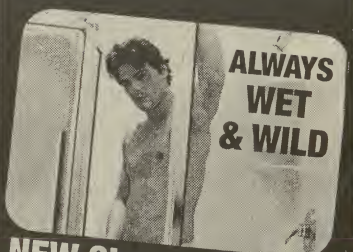
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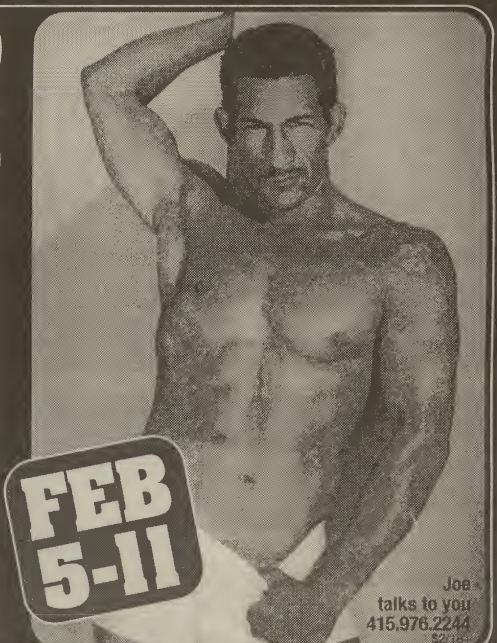
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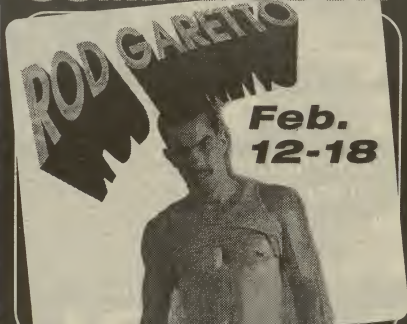
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Next: Mr. SF Leather '98

by Mister Marcus

How wonderful it is to be able to say that San Francisco's leather community has been involved with International Mr. Leather since its inception, when David Kloss went to Chicago in May 1979 to represent us and won the title! Of course, in those days, there was no Mr. SF Leather title. In early spring of that year, Hank, the owner of the Brig (now the Powerhouse), got wind of the contest and sent David to represent our community.

This victory became the impetus to send our very best leather representative to Chicago for each IML. In subsequent years, Marty Kiker (1983), Patrick Toner (1985) and Lenny Broberg (1992) brought the title home. Also, in 1992, Ms. SF Leather Blair won IML honors. San Francisco has captured the IML title more than any other city.

Coming up is the 20th anniversary of the nation's biggest leather competition and San Francisco's 20th anniversary of holding a competition to send a leather man to compete at it. On Memorial Day Weekend, some 60 men from around the world will compete for leatherdom's highest honor in the Windy City. To give our choice time to prepare for the event, the Mr. SF Leather '98 Committee has set Friday, March 20, as the date for the contest. In addition, the residency requirement, formerly one year, has been reduced to six months.

The affair will take place at Club Townsend that night. All the judges will be local leather people (including one from San Jose). The pre-judging interviews will take place on Sunday, March 15, in a private area of Leticia's (2247 Market) at 1300.



Mr. February 1999 Jon Ayers (right) poses with delectable runner-up Ali Shouieb last Thursday at the Powerhouse.

This change of date for the finals means that those bars and groups who plan to enter a contestant must conduct their in-bar contests earlier than expected. At my deadline, the following bars have set their dates as follows: Mr. Leather/Daddy's will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 18; Mr. Edge Leather will occur on Thursday, March 12; and the very next night, Mr. Polk Street Leather will be chosen at the Wooden Horse. Check with those bars for particulars like prizes and other

details. No date has been set for the Powerhouse, the Eagle or any other bar, but stay tuned.

Tickets for Mr. San Francisco Leather 1998 will be \$20 and available soon on a first-come, first-served basis. More info will follow in this column, of course, and on posters with Leon's magnificent art work for this 20th anniversary event. And all you aspirants to succeed International Mr. Leather '97 Kevin Cwayna should start studying, flexing and getting your leather gear in shape!

Update on IMsL

Former International Ms. Leather Shan Carr, who was designated as the caretaker for the IMsL travel fund last August, happily reports that the entire amount raised at the travel fund auction for the new incumbent, Genelle Moore, has been paid to Ms. Moore. Charge cards and checks have cleared, so Amy Marie Meek can breathe easier these days. The auction money raised for International Ms. Deaf Leather Cool Cat has been paid as well!

Home on the range

The second Bare Chest Calendar competition got under way last Thursday, Jan. 29, at the Powerhouse. Another huge crowd was on hand, and Judges Loren

next page ►

Only the facts, ma'am

In my Jan. 1 column, I mentioned that New York's GMSMA was being sued by photographer Chris Scanlon for use of his photos in various promotional materials put out by that organization. The item might have caused you to think that Mr. Scanlon was the bad guy in this dispute, but what it boils down to is the same old "two sides to every story." I apologize if you were led to believe that Mr. Scanlon was the villain in the affair.

Scanlon's side of the story appears to be reasonable in view of the court documents that he himself forwarded to me. According to these documents, GMSMA did indeed use Scanlon's photographs in various promotional materials for their events in spite of Scanlon's repeated requests to cease and desist from doing same. I apologize for any embarrassment, inconvenience, or discomfort my coverage may have caused. The final outcome will be reported here, but not until late spring when a court decides the issue. ▼



1998 officers of the Defenders/SF (left to right: Mark Fuentes, vice leader; Louis de Dobbeleer, leader; Dragon Terry, secretary; and Jim Remer, treasurer) were presented at the club's fourth anniversary Sat., Jan. 31.

HOW DRY I AM

Lounge life

by Sweet Lips

Well, my gout's been acting up again, so I've been off the plank this week, and according to all reports, business at the Polk Rendezvous has plummeted! The lights are out on the Polkstrasse, folks! Just kidding! I may be immortal, but I'm not indispensable!

Anyway, dear readers and gentle friends, I should be back at my post by the time you read this (Thursday, Feb. 5), so do drop by for a late morning or early afternoon libation or two. As the legendary Elizabeth Scott so aptly noted in *Pitfall*: "Have you ever noticed if for some reason you want to feel completely out of step with the rest of the world, the only thing to do is sit around a cocktail lounge in the afternoon?" I can't imagine any better advice myself! As always, my hours (which you should have committed to memory by now) are Thursday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Yes, I've been sprawled across my four-poster the past couple of days receiving guests and reviewing highlights from my tempestuous 75 years of life. For inspiration in my time of distress, I've found myself turning, once again, to the wise words of the *Tao Te Ching*, specifically these verses from Chapter Thirteen: "Accept disgrace willingly./ Accept misfortune as the human condition./ What do you mean by 'Accept disgrace willingly'/? Accept being unimportant./ Do not be concerned with loss or gain./ This is

called 'accepting disgrace willingly./ What do you mean by 'Accept misfortune as the human condition'/? Misfortune comes from having a body [I'll say!]./ Without a body, how could there be misfortune?/ Surrender yourself humbly; then you can be trusted to care for all things./ Love the world as your own self; then you can truly care for all things."

Words to live by, *mais oui*?

After several vodka tonics, I find I can accept and surrender with nary a thought. Try it, *mes amis*, and you'll see what I mean!

Events to remember!

Please don't forget

Coronation 1998,

Feb. 19-22.

Knowing their

Imperial Serene

Highnesses, Em-

peror Jacques Michaels and Empress Veronda Lanai, the crowning at the Gift Center Pavilion on Saturday, Feb. 21, should be a glittering affair! I've been assured that all the contestants will be on their *best* behavior this year. Too bad! I've been pining for a good lipstick fight myself.

The day after the crowning, Sunday, Feb. 22, marks the annual trek by the Widow Norton (a.k.a. Jose Sarria) and her entourage to the grave of the Emperor Joshua Norton at the lovely Woodlawn Cemetery in Colma. If wailing drag queens in widow's weeds are your cup of tea, then you're in for a treat. Seriously, although the hour is a *bit* early for all you slug-a-beds, this is a must-see event for the uninitiated. Call (415) 673-6160 for more information.

Just in time for Valentine's Day (Saturday, Feb. 14) is Good Vibrations' Male Erotic Massage work-

dinner. Outgoing leader John Currier introduced the whole club and the new officers: leader, Louis de Dobbelaar; vice leader, Mark Fuentes; secretary, Dragon Terry; and treasurer, Jim Remer. Best wishes for success!

Cookie cock

Since Valentine's Day is just around the corner, you might want to titillate your true love by buying him a dick-shaped cookie (only \$1.50) at Hot Cookie, 407 Castro. See Don Glazier (the creator) if you want one bigger than the standard size. They're made of gingerbread dough and come complete with imitation pubic hair and an inscription that reads: "Eat Me!" Sales are skyrocketing!

Crowning around

The aspirants to the throne of



Lips, pre-gout, with teenager.

shop (Monday, Feb. 9, 8-10 p.m., \$20, 1210 Valencia, 415-974-8980). There's nothing like a good toss to make your day, I always say! The blurb runs like so: "Learning to give the ultimate handjob is within your grasp. Elizabeth Rowan, a masseuse for 10 years, introduces you to the finer points of male genital massage, from breathing techniques to prolonging release (how to tease mercilessly). A non-sexual demonstration will be followed by hands-on practice using silicone dildos."

Of course, if they'd wanted a *real* expert in this field, they could have contacted yours truly. You don't have to be able to walk to stroke the old skin flute properly, as hundreds of satisfied visitors to my humble abode could testify! However, proper training always comes in handy, whether you're servicing your Commander and Chief in the Oval Office or a derelict at some SoMa sex *boite*! It's never too late to pick up a few pointers as regards man's favorite sport - plus your special someone will be so happy when you give them that gift of love with a few new twists thrown in for good measure! ▼

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Berthelson, Steve Crouse, Bob Goldfarb and Chris Ward had a field day with the six contestants. One of the contenders, Ali Shouieb, a newcomer from Egypt, had the audience in a complete swoon! The dialogue was choice!

When it got down to the nitty-gritty, the winner of the Mr. February 1999 spot was Jon Ayers, and the adorable Mr. Shouieb was the runner-up. Mr. March 1999 will be chosen on Thursday, Feb. 12. The judges for the contest will be Andy Shore, Mitch Pierce and Andy Rose. See you there!

Last Saturday, Jan. 31, the Defenders/SF celebrated its fourth anniversary at the Eagle with lots of folks, libations and a buffet

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Feb. 5

Big Basket contest at The Edge around 2200, with Danny Williams doing the honors. Win cash, fame, penis envy! Enjoy the beer bust!

Friday, Feb. 6

One emperor and two empress candidates at the Powerhouse answer your queries at 2000. Make your decisions after the Q&A, but don't forget to vote on Sat., Feb. 14.

Weekend, Feb. 7-8

Artist Leon's open house with "My Sexy Valentine" the theme, with work by Harry Tanner, "Roderick" and Gary VanVelsor (noon-1600, 4623 18th Street).

Saturday, Feb. 7

The Cal Eagles MC celebrates its 14th anniversary

with a celebration at the Eagle, 1900-2200. Admittance by club overlay/colors or by invitation in hand. If you don't know what "club colors" are, you shouldn't even be there!

Sunday, Feb. 8

Daddy's boy David Meyer hosts the beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8, food, silent auction, with ICF Motorcycle Awards tickets available.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. Doors open 2000-2300. Clothes check mandatory. Wear your galoshes. Call 863-HEAD for details.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Mr. March will be chosen for the 1999 BCC at 2200 tonight. Win \$100, fame, fortune. Ice those nipples! New judges! New Powerhouse location!

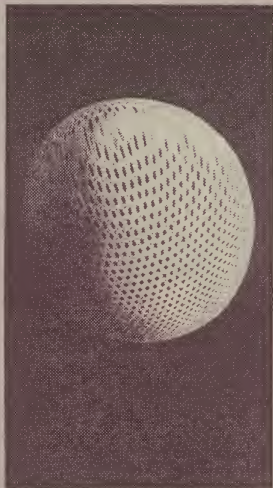
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Chalk Hill (smooth) I, 1997

Candy striper

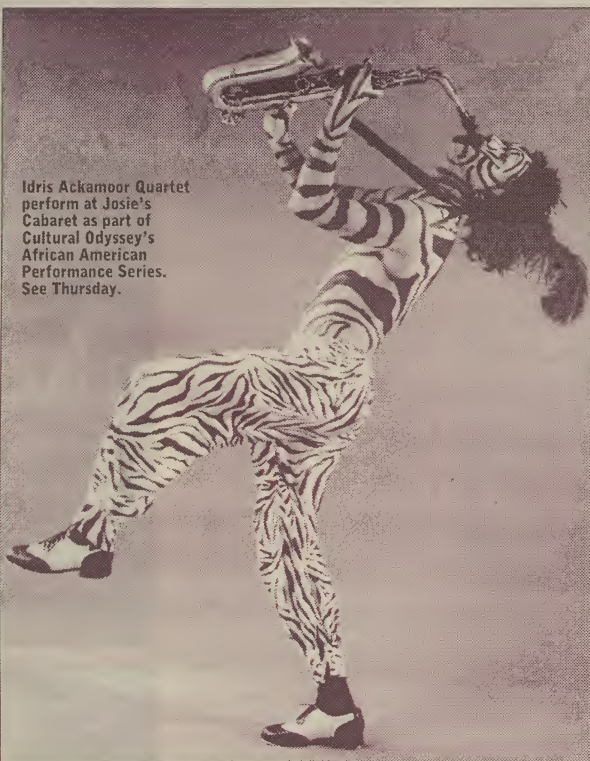
When Margaret Hamilton shrieked, "I'm melting!" back in Oz, that was cause for alarm. But a sculpture made out of caramel by artist Gay Outlaw, currently melting at Refusalon gallery as part of her *Black Hose Mountain* exhibition, is nothing to be concerned about. It's part of the natural life of the artwork, as foreseen by the artist: caramel under spotlights, naturally, will eventually slide into sweet gooey entropy.

Trained as a pastry chef in France, Outlaw has worked with delectable materials before: her "Tinned Wall/Dark Matter," recently de-installed from its place in front of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, was a long, snaky wall made from bricks of fruitcake, airtight-preserved. But Outlaw has no day job as confectioner: Refusalon gallery director Charles Linder says she has the true commitment of a career artist, whatever her chosen media may be.

Consider the show's eponymous work, "Black Hose Mountain," a large sculpture which dominates the Refusalon space in the basement of the Crown Point Press building. The title refers not to lingerie, but to black rubber plumber's hose, a lot of it, filled with plaster of Paris. A 10-foot-tall "mountain" of the sleek ebony hose is mounted onto a wooden underform, and it's a formidable presence. Though it comes apart into many pieces, making it fashionably modular, "Black Hose Mountain" looks all of a piece.

The show includes smaller sculptures made from aggregations of chalk, painted with center dots that refer to Outlaw's pencil-pieces, and that hulking mass of hoses, which in their way also resemble pencils in cross-section. We'd hate to see the erasers. ▼

"Black Hose Mountain and other works" remains on view through February 28 at Refusalon, 20 Hawthorne. For information, call 546-0158.



Idris Ackamoor Quartet perform at Josie's Cabaret as part of Cultural Odyssey's African American Performance Series. See Thursday.

Eri

Blood on the Cat's Neck

Theater Rhubarb presents a play by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/14. \$8-10. Exit Theater Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 751-0439.

Bridges

The Snow White Co. in two one-act plays by Lionel Krantz: *Reach Out and Touch Someone*, and *You, the Night and the Music*. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 2/8. \$12. Yugen/Noh Space Theater, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7797.

Death of a Salesman

Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/8. \$18. Actors Theatre of SF, 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards turned naughty. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm extended thru 3/1. \$16-22. New Conservatory Theater, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

En Drag

Female impersonators revue, hosted by Sexilya Luvseat. \$10. 9,10&11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Full Frontal Rudity

Queer Latino comedy trio Latin Hustle performs. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm thru 2/7. Studio at Theater Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

I Love Lezzie

Comedy revue features Peggy Critz, Susan Dambroff, more. Fri.-Sat. & 2/15 at 8pm thru 2/21. \$11-15. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

Insurrection: Holding History

A.C.T. presents Robert

O'Hara's riff on history, slavery, and sexual identity. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm; Wed., Sat. & Sun. at 2pm thru 2/8. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Late Night Live

Comedy talk show; hosts David Mills, Bridget Schwartz. Tonight: "Family Horror Stories." \$8. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Maids

Jean Genet's play, directed by Joshua Marchesi, part of the Absurdist season. Fri., Sat. & 2/9 at 8pm thru 2/14. \$12. Exit Theater, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

Mozart Requiem

American Bach Soloists in concert. \$18-32. 8pm. Calvary Presbyterian Church, Fillmore & Jackson. 392-4400.

Music for Lovers

Cabaret entertainment by Denis D. Erickson, Robb Williams, accompanied by Tom Shaw. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$10. MCC, 150 Eureka. 487-5449.

Nora

Aurora Theatre Co. presents Ingmar Bergman's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/1. \$18-25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant, Berkeley. (510) 843-4822.

Sabrina Matthews

Lesbian comic, with opening comic Dan Rothenberg. Tues.-Sun. at 8pm thru 2/8. \$10-12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Under 24

Performance Fest

2nd annual selection of short solo works by theatre artists under 24. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/7. \$10. Bindlestiff Studio, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

Sat

Community-Based Hearing

EQ Develop. Group and Harvey Milk Institute hold forum on economic issues in GLBT community. Supe Ammiano speaks. 1pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 333-4164.

Cupid's Follies

Musicopia presents gay-friendly Valentine's musical revue. Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm. \$15. Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College, Berkeley. (510) 644-2673.

Ex-Lovers

Scott O'Hara's surreal musical romance, with music by Tom Phillips. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/14. \$12-22. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Lilies

Screenings benefit Pacific Center. Sat.: social, 2pm; film, 3pm. Sun.: 3pm. \$5.

Photography of the urban ecosystem by Morgan Schmidt, at Mad Magda's. See Monday.



Parkway Theatre, 1834 Park, Oakland. (510) 271-8090.

Marga Gomez

"Is Pretty, Witty & Gay," one-woman show, part of Exposed gay conference. \$15. 8pm. Mainstage Theater, UC Santa Cruz. (408) 459-2159.

My Sexy Valentine

Leon's open studio, with work by Harry Tanner, Roderick, Gary Van Velsor. Sat. & Sun., 12-4pm. 4623 18th St.

The Next Show

Erotic art exhibition, includes Sanford Shapiro, Michael Rosen, Marc De Bauch, more. Fri. & Sat. thru Feb. Raven Gallery, 2187 Market. 551-7940.

Rhapsodies in Black:

Art of the Harlem Renaissance multimedia exhibition, thru 3/8. \$7 + \$2.50 surcharge. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.

San Francisco Magic

Magicians from the SF Conjurors Club perform. Saturdays at 8pm thru 2/28. \$13 + \$2 min'm. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Satellite 002

"Lady Luck" games, gambling & gluttony, hosted by Juanita MORE! \$25 benefits Visual Aid. 8pm. Space, 1141 Polk. 775-1722.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Kevin Avery, Dan Rotherberg, Chris Burns. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Tarot for Gay Men

Tarot as gay gateway to the soul. Sats. at 10:30am thru 2/28. \$100, bring own deck. 4328 18th St. 388-1889.

Tribal, Folk, Textile Arts Show

Thousands of pre-1940 art & artifacts from indigenous cultures. Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun.-5pm. \$10. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. (310) 455-2886.

Women's Philharmonic

In concert, conducted by Apo Hsu; program includes Fanny Mendelssohn's Overture. \$20-35. 8pm. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

Sun

Gavin Geoffrey Dillard

Reads from memoir, *In the Flesh*, free. 3pm. Gay and Lesbian Center, Main Library, Grove & Market.

Joy Ride

Campo Santo presents Greg Sarris' play: three mixed-race Portuguese brothers. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 3/1. \$9-14. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

PFLAG

2pm: support group. 3pm: Larry Allgaier updates on Employment Non-Discrimination Act, free. St. Francis, 152 Church. 921-8850.

Radical Voices

In the Dialogue on Race, panel features Babalwa Kwanele, Merle Woo, Jo Hirschman. Panel, 3pm, \$3; buffet, 5:30pm, \$8. Freedom Socialist Party, 1908 Mission. 864-1278.

Mon

Black Males

13 oil paintings by Sylvan Rogers, thru 3/9. Booklovers Haven, 725 Marin, Vallejo. (707) 644-8655.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Maureen Brownsey, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Guerrilla Girls

Read from *The Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art*, free. 7:30pm. A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness. 567-6876.

Idea House San Francisco

Design showcase creates three complete homes, free. Mon.-Fri. thru 9/30. SF Design Center, 2 Henry Adams. 490-5800.

June Bride

(Just a Traditional Jewish Lesbian Wedding!), Sara Felder's play, directed by Jayne Wenger, opens. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/1. \$18 (\$25 tonight). A Traveling Jewish Theater, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Morgan Schmidt

Photo collages of the urban ecosystem, thru Feb. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Out on the Island

Alameda's action group for GLBT community has Candidate Forum. 7pm. Call for location. (510) 337-1300.

Roy DeCarava

Retrospective exhibit of works by Harlem and jazz photographer, thru 4/14. \$8. SFMO-MA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Tues

Eye on Viet Nam:

Images from Ho Chi Minh City photographers, curated by Lou Dematteis, with photos from his *A Portrait of Viet Nam*, thru 4/10. Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun. extended thru 4/12, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Hunter Reynolds

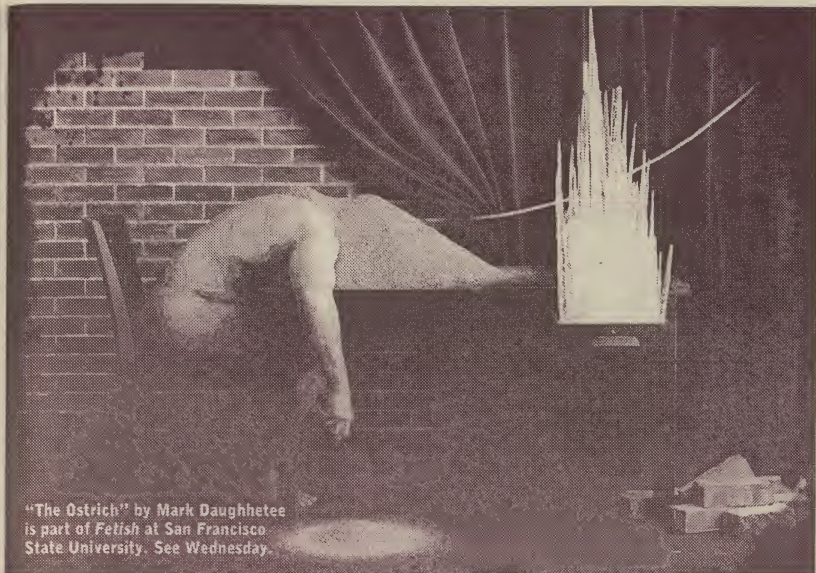
Display of Memorial Dress for drag persona Patina du Prey. Also: Rodney O'Neal Austin's *Now Entering Beavercreek, Ohio*; nine artists in *To Be Real*. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

It's All True!

Film and video series challenging idea of reality. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/1. Museum admission \$5. Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

James D. Phelan Art Award

In Photography, exhibition by



"The Ostrich" by Mark Daughhetee is part of *Fetish* at San Francisco State University. See Wednesday.

winners David Berg, Kim Brown, Erin O'Neill. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/28. San Francisco Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Nocturnal Emissions

New work by Timothy Cummings, with "A Thin Line," new work by Ted Julian Arnold. Thru 2/28. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Picasso & Villers:

"The Diurnes Portfolio," exhibit of collaboration: photographs & paper cut-outs. Thru 3/8. \$5. Ansel Adams Ctr., 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Queer Arts Resource

Launch party of Winter 98 Siteworks: *Contempo Lesbos*, *The Legacy of Hubert Stowitts*, *One Hundred Years of Male Nudes*. 6pm. Internet Alfredo, 790-A Brannan. 642-3624.

Sol Lewitt

Wall drawings and photographs by pioneering conceptualist, thru 2/28. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Women in Printing

And Publishing in California: 1850-1940, exhibit of pioneering women. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/18. \$3. Calif. Historical Society Mus'm, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x14.

Wed

Alchemy

A new multimedia work by brothers Lyle Ashton Harris and Thomas Allen Harris, thru 3/14. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Basket of Flowers

Brent St. Claire as Victor Dupree in cabaret, part of Cultural Odyssey's African American Perf. Series. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Defending the Caveman

Rob Becker's solo show explores the gender gap. Wed.-Sun. thru 2/22; call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$15.50-46.50. Golden Gate Theater. 776-1999.

Designs for Dance

Exhibit of costume designs and set models, Wed.-Sat. thru 5/9. Free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Essence of Style:

Chinese Furniture of the Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties exhibit, thru 9/6. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Fetish

Group show explores relationship of artist and fetish. Reception tonight, 5pm. Thru 3/6. Art Gallery, Cesar Chavez Student Ctr., SFSU. 338-2580.

Five Points of View

Contemporary basket artists, thru 3/15. SF Craft & Folk Art Museum, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 775-0991.

Gino Severini:

"Works on Paper from 1922 to 1965" and "A Futurist Footnote" exhibitions. Wed.-Sun. thru 3/22. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

HEAL

Naturopath Dr. Marcia Rendle Smith speaks to Health, Education, AIDS Liaison group, free. 7pm. Park Branch library, 1833 Page. 441-0685.

How I Learned To Drive

Berkeley Rep Theatre presents Paula Vogel's off-Broadway hit. Thru 2/27, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$34.50-45. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison. (510) 845-4700.

Ikut:

"Splendid Silks from Central Asia," exhibit thru 3/1. \$7. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Jock Sturges

New photographs, the innocence of children. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/21. Lecture tonight, 7:30pm, SF Camerawork.



Mezzo-soprano Karen Feder sings arias and art songs at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. See Wednesday.

Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Karen Feder

Mezzo-soprano sings arias and art songs: Mozart, Faure, Barber, Strauss. Free. 8pm. Hellman Hall, SF Conservatory of Music, 1201 Ortega. 564-8086.

Kate Bornstein

Reads from *My Gender Workbook*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Klubstitute

8th anniversary party celebrates "The Bummer of Love." Veronica Klaus, Connie Champagne, Ruby Toosday, more. 9:30pm. \$2.98. Chameleon, 853 Valencia. 331-1500 xDIET.

My Sucky Valentine

Erotica reading by Carol Queen, Simon Sheppard, Michelle Tea, more, benefits SF Sex Information. \$5-10. 7:30pm. DNA Lounge, 375 11th St.

Scott Braverman

Reads from *Queer Fictions of the Past*, free. 7:30pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

Wings of Desire

First exhibition of *California Suite: New Art from LA*, thru 3/8. SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Wittgenstein: On Mars

George Coates' theater work. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 2/28. \$24-36. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 392-4400.

Thur

Black Horse Mountain

Works by Gay Outlaw, thru 2/28. Refusalon, 20 Hawthorne. 546-0158.

Combat!

"An American Melodrama," John Fisher's play on gay men and women in the US military during WWII. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sat. at 3pm thru 3/14. \$21-24. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. 621-7797.

Come In

From the Rain

David Mauriello's erotic drama: a bank clerk and a buff call boy. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/7, call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Financial District Side Show

Sketches and solo pieces performed by Bridget Schwartz, Liz White, Bill Bernat and more. Thurs. at 8pm thru 3/5. \$8-12. 450 Geary Theatre. 673-1172.

Full Frontal Nellie

Sketch comedy by the Nellie Olesons. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/28. \$12-17. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Happy Anniversaries

Lou Reda's play: struggles of a gay relationship. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 3/8. \$15. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Idris Ackamoor Quartet

"Portrait" CD release party, special guests Daria Nile, Rhodessa Jones; part of Cultural Odyssey's African American Perf. Series. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

This Week's Dinner Specials



Grilled Atlantic Salmon with lemon-caper butter on a bed of garlic mashed potatoes with seasonal vegetables 9.75

Penne Pasta & Grilled Chicken Breast with creamy basil pesto, parmesan 8.95

N.Y. Pepper Steak with cracked black pepper & brandy-cream, with onion rings and crispy french fries 11.95

PRIME RIB au jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish 11.95

Fried Calamari with dipping sauce . 5.75

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thru March 8

Infidelity

Love

Comedy



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For Information and Reservations call: 415-861-5079

BAR TALK

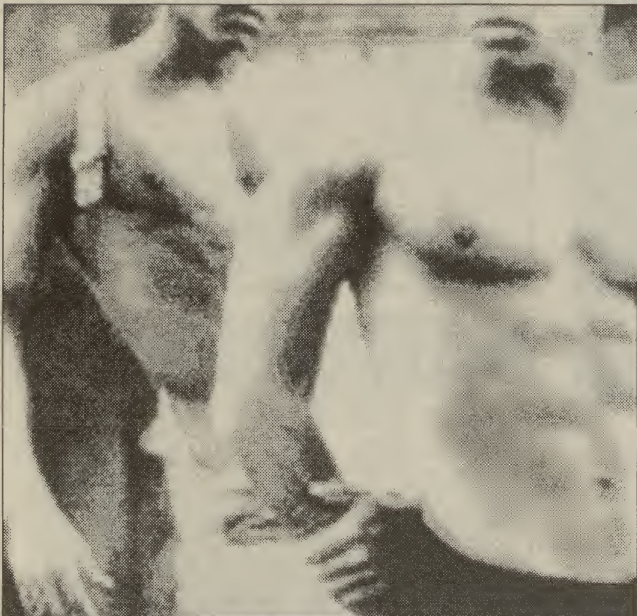


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PARTING GLANCES

N-Car stop @ 10/Judah
You: tall, dark haired, waiting for out-bound, sucking on water bottle. Me: across the street, beard, buff, boner. Car came to soon, huh? **9901**

Said my name wasn't Bill-9304
Do answer to Robert instead. Do remember being asked but not by whom. Refresh my memory if interested. What do you want to know? **9902**

Tim: Eros, Sat Jan. 17
You: Tattooed back from Hayes Valley. Me: Latino guy with cropped black hair from downtown. You wanted to take me home. I'm interested. **9901**

Sat Jan 17-Castro sidewalk 1:00
We looked, I turned, we smiled. You: waiting at Chevron gas, tan pants, white shirt, sweater, great smile. Me: w/ friend, jeans, blue jacket, sunglasses, shy! Let's talk, meet? **9902**

Tony, Folsom St. bookstore
Mon, 5PM, You: tank top, leather jacket. Me: shirt and tie. Both really nice dicks. Glory hole then booth. I came while sucking your dick. Let's play some more. **9903**

Black Lab on N Judah
Tues, 1-6, you and your black Lab were on the N Judah. We talked and I foolishly got off at Van Ness. **9905**

Hassan at "My Place" Friday 1/2
We closed My Place with passion, long probing kisses, and body play. More kissing outside. I'm still no masochist but your energy is delightful. I'd love to play again, if... **9906**

Victor from L.A. Jan 4th Sun.
Spoke at Lonestar, had great time just talking. Left with my friend on his bike giving me a lift, next time in town call. **9901**

Michael @ Campton Place 1/24
Met before my blind date over lemon drops. Wanted to go out with You. Call me and let's cook together. James. **9902**

Patrick at CCSF Gay Studies
We met in Washington D.C. Jan 18 at MAL. I'll be in SF mid-Feb; ready to wait for you again! **9903**

Chinese cultural center Th 1/22
Interested in Chinese culture & more? Last on elevator, then opened door for you. Gentleman in black coat too shy and polite to approach you in public. Please call. **9904**

Chows cannoli Thurs 1/22
Sitting by kitchen, you dash a friend, me with one. You shared your cannoli with me and I apple pie with you. Would like to meet you. **9905**

Rob 1/17/98 WF Bank n' Mkt.
Our puppies became friends while we talked. Sorry I had to dash. Should have gotten your number or a date-Billy. **9906**

EmeryGoRound Commuter
I think I accidentally erased your message before listening to it. Try again? Please? **9907**

Rob Eros Fri Dec 26
You: dark hair, goatee, 30's, top. Me: Jim, dark hair, stocky, hairy chest. We connected upstairs then smiled in the shower. Round 2? Please. **9908**

Black butterfly tattoo-Folsom
Sun. 1/28. You: nice body, great kisser. I believe this was our second time. Me: shy glack guy. Let's get together in a more private place. **9909**

New Year's Eve in Palm Springs
You from SF, me from Monterey. Spoke of resolutions at Amnesia. You stayed at El Mira Sol. Call me. **9904**

Too cute to talk to
"My Place". Your earlier frolic caught me off-guard. My loss! How about 2nd chance? I would like to thank you routinely. **9910**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Cute, romantic, warm GAW 34
5'11", 145, ISO GWM, 30's, well-built, sexy, responsible, intelligent, great kisser. Let's take a cozy breathtaking backroads drive up the coast, through Sonoma, wine & dine in Calistoga. That's just the beginning. **9903**

Badass buttboy needed!!
Seeking GWM/masculine bottom for GWM/masculine top dirty old man, who wants and knows how to make your ass feel real good. **9904**

Tale of Mr. Hirsute and smooth!
I would be the tall hairy one, and you would be the smooth b between 30 and 45, well read and witty, warm-hearted and humorous. I am 45 with a kind smile. **9907**

Fun loving pre-op transsexual
Hawaiian-Chinese 33, looking for friendship. Enjoys the simple things in life. **9908**

Friendship-relationship sought
by an attr. loving caring GWM, 74, 5'7", 165. You are 18-40, glib, romantic, HIV-, and open to a LTR with a more mature man. **9909**

Fun 4 GAW?
Hip GWM, 40ish, funny, honest, seeks trim GAW over 30 for friendship, possible LTR. I enjoy arts, music, treasure hunting, travel, romance! Call me now!! **9910**

Youthful 40s
Goodlooking, athletic, GWM, HIV-, enjoys smoking/drinking/looking for compatible Asian who enjoys socializing for friendship/poss. LTR. **9912**

Daddy top
5'8, 165#, Nordic white beard oversized swans 150 Mediterranean featured bottom companion. HIV+, E. Bay, Hairy a+. **9909**

GWM early 50's
HIV- seeks mature N/S Asian for dining, friends, relationship, possible LTR. **9913**

My funny valentine...
...likes laughter, love, romance, honesty, spirituality, and achieving goals. GWM, 45, 6, 185, NS, sym, healthy pzx. All of the above. A good catch. My happy future includes you. **9914**

Life is an adventure
Great attitude, passionate, goodlooking, 26yo GLM looking for cute 23-35 GWM any race for friendship/relationship. I am 5'8, 150#, and enjoy films, exercise, travel, great food. **9915**

Gdlikng masculine cigar smoker
Easy going, friendly, professional, 38, 6'4, 185, beard, HIV+. Seeking similar, top or versatile, masculine cigar-smokers over 30, affectionate and enjoy vanilla to kink. Facial hair a+. **9907**

Intense, bi-racial, 23
Handsome black/white man (6 feet tall, 155 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, goatee) seeks white man under 30 for friendship/relationship. Mature, emotional, spontaneous and sensual. **9906**

Cub seeks piz bear daddy
Cute, GWM, 45, 5'7, 165, beard, bottom, HIV+, and healthy, seeks older husky, hair, strict daddy bear. Like spanking and rough sex, drinking buddy on weekends and over 200 a must. **9908**

Chicano guy 26
Regular type, 5'7, 165, stocky, muscular build, student. Seeking Latins, Whites or Asians under 40 for friendship maybe more. N/S. **9905**

Handsome muscular Italian
GWM, 6'2, 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV- extremely well-hung man for monogamous relationship. **9910**

Free Spirit
GWM, 33, HIV+, positive attitude, attractive, outgoing, healthy mind, body and spirit; into: nature, walks, love animals, tennis, beaches, movies, camping. You: HIV+, 25-35, healthy, attractive, top, versatile, love outdoors, humor. **9911**

Seeking GBM/GHM
GWM, 6'3", 170, 41, br/bl, HIV-, athletic, attractive, masculine into sports, music, movies, seeking attractive GBM/GHM, 30-45 with similar interests for dating, possible LTR. **9911**

Fun-loving mentor
Looking for GWM professional, 28-44, HIV-, friendly, possibly more. Stats: 23, 5'8", medium build, HIV-, neg. You: under 35, NS, ND, good build, versatile, HIV-, neg, and aggressive. I'm ready. **9919**

European SWM
Mid 30's, tall and slim, br/bl, fit and healthy professional, into hiking, movies, books and much more. Looking for partner with similar interests for friendship, dating, open to LTR. **9913**

Old fart, fairly trim & healthy
Would enjoy the pleasure of your company close and through the night. I'm clean and easy-going. **9913**

No carnivores
Let's start with dinner and see where that leads. Basic mid-40's White man. More green than gay, limited free time, wants it all. **9912**

Hugs and kisses come first
My aims hold what the world lacks. Me: attractive, GWM, top, 46, 6'5, 250, husky-stocky build, brown hair, mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attractive, GWM, 21-35, slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. Good kisser a must. **9914**

Pacific Islanders young and slim
New friends sought by romantic WM, 54 (looks 40's), 5'11, 170, HIV-, NS, brown hair/eyes, handsome, clean shaven, city boy, likes cats, scuba, travel, photography. Monogamous LTR possible. **9915**

Looking for LTR
Just you and me babe. Now is the time to get started a new year for you. Some quiet nites at home, good food, conversation. Me: 60yo, 170#, I'll fix dinner for us, you fix the rest. **9916**

Seeking HIV+ something
I know you're out there. HIV+, early 30's, handsome, healthy, sexy, gym-oriented, outdoorsy, WM with sresh attitude and mind. HIV status not public. Need your camaraderie, energy. Call me. **9917**

Seeking Asian top
Healthy, good-looking 35yr GWM bottom seeks quality in-shape Asian top, 25-40. Serious only. **9918**

Social Xnaxy main line has wads
ISO xprt plumb 2 deep sucksn It dry on reg basis. Dgikg WM, 6', 160, br buss cot, 47, cut castiron pipe with gasket needs pro 2 clear chunky wads. Sweetly, steady work in heavy brush. Long hrs, wonds, OT. Travel requ. 4 LTR. **9919**

Leather and/or lace slave
Kinky, submissive GWM, mid 50's, seeks complement. Ht, Wt proportionate, looks, age, ethnicity not important. Slave likes to please, has many interests. Fr active, Gr passive. **9920**

Dad seeks "son"
Man, 40's, masculine yet gentle, seeks a young good looking guy, 20-40, who appreciates a nurturing mature man-inspire me!!! **9921**

Good catch, good fuck, good good!
I'm still single! 5'10, 185#, 35, GWM, brn/blz, beard, good-looking, honest, straightforward, loyal, educ, talented, human, emotionally available, NS, ND, wants similar GWM/LM with facial hair. No shit. **9922**

Handsome, greatshape, HIV+
GWM, healthy mind & body, Professional, honest, unaffected, self-aware, 41, 5'9, 170, brn/gm, work out, read, cook, travel, adventurous, sweet, tawdry, seeks quality man with similar attitudes for fun, frolic and maybe more. **9923**

HIV+ btm sks hung romantic top
Me: 6'3, 190, 42, GWM, smoker, long term, HIV+, stocky in seales open LTR, romantic, affectionate, hung. Seeks 30's to 40's attractive hung real, aggressive toman for friendship, sex relationship. Be honest. Redwood City. **9924**

Looking for a chaser
Me: 41, 5'10, 265, caucasian and new to SF. Love the outdoors, animals, travel. You: younger, shorter, lighter with mental, emotional maturity. Wanted: new friends. **9925**

Humbolt GWM seeks Clark Kent
Me: 30, 6'2, 190#, bln/bl, masc, fit, stable, politic, active, out, N2 dancing/sun and travel. You: GWM, 18-23, HIV+, a little, hairy, muscular, fit, build, fit, Dk hair, masc, out, sim. interests, affectionate, artistic, NS/ND. **9926**

Middle-Eastern Boy
Cute, 26, 5'6", 130#, seeking White Latino or European men, preferable under 5'9, height/weight proportionate. I want to meet men interested in long conversations, endless kisses, and passionate nights. **9925**

Gdguys seeks young Matt Damon
Handsome GWM, 45, 5'9, 150, in-shape, professional, willing to share safe sex, fun and travel with GWM, 18-23, HIV+, a must, Santa Cruz, San Jose, Pen. or SF. Have beach house! **9914**

Seeking cub for LTR
GWM big daddy bear wants a young cub at his side. Loyalty, versatility and intelligence are a plus. Must have some facial/chest hair. Under 40yrs. stocky build. LTR possible. **9915**

Nice looking GAW seeks romance
GWM, 28, 5'3 1/2", handsome, smooth, educated, loves books, music, piano, movies, travel, outdoors and dining. Seeking in shape GWM, 27-35, handsome, educated for LTR. **9916**

Brotherly love
GWM, 51, 5'8", 175, brn/bl, beard, HIV- seeks loving friendship with sensual, affectionate, and horny! GM who enjoys contact, touch, massage, hand sex. **9917**

New to East Bay
GWM, 36, 6', 195, hairy and bottom looking for friends who are easy-going, to like to have fun. **9918**

GWM seeks other GWM or GAW
GWS, affectionate, and horny! GM who enjoys contact, touch, massage, hand sex. 35, NS, ND, good build, versatile, HIV-, neg, and aggressive. I'm ready. **9919**

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel, looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. **9920**

HIV+ East Bay top needed
HIV+ bottom, 35, 6', 185, blue/brown, healthy, cute pie seeks top to snuggle by my fireplace in Pittsburg-LTR with dark-haired, brown-eyed smoker. **9921**

SEEKING ADVENTURE

ISO mouth and throat stretcher
Goodlooking GWM oral pig looking for a few good extra thick, long man tools for sucking, licking, worshipping, kissing, rubbing and slapping on face. Verbal nastiness and cockrings a plus. **9916**

Black men take notice!!!
Do you want a regular white pussy boy, 5'8", 145, slache, goatee, hairy chest. Seeking well-endowed dominant top black men to please. **9917**

Oral svc for Asian men
SF GWM, 45, 6'1, 190, handsome, delivers complete oral service to trim, mature, masculine Asian men. HIV-. No reciprocation required. **9918**

Leather and more
Sexy hairy professional looking for other hot men for sex, conversation and good times. **9919**

Give it up to a dominant stud
You know that your hot mouth nd tight ass are there to serve your handsome hawainian prince. Thinking about his chiseled, smooth muscular strong body slamming your butt makes your hole twitch, your ass wet. You: cute, in-shape. **9920**

Rewarding fun!
Top-notch bi M/Fs, 18-32, sought for private parties. Ideal for students and artists. Broad capabilities not required. **9921**

Stern strict man wanted
Man was dominant activity from hard-cooked boys. SM, BD, and heavy duty fucking. Men are mature, professional. Upper Haight, SF. **9922**

Married and love to suck cock!
BiWMM, 47, attr, tall, slim, prof seeks well-hung men to service. Will play with it slowly, suck it like only a married guy can with enthusiasm. **9923**

I'm your baby tonight
Sexy GWM, 21, 5'11 and slim, brn/blu eyes ISO oral tops 18-30, in shape w/ lots of energy. I'll be your dream and you can be my fantasy. **9924**

Spread your cheeks
For my hot, wet, talented tongue in your hot, clean butt by attractive Italian, 44, 6', 190, goatee. Castro late nite sex 12-Sam. **9925**

Hot daddy in leather ISO boy
Nasty party boy with hungry mouth nd butt for daddy who wants to give what you need. Daddy is 40, muscular, moderately hairy, moustache, hung 9". Surrender to the experience. **9926**

Senior citizen
Gives extraordinary deep throat service to well-endowed men. Bring your stud tool to a dedicated phallic worshipper who knows what to do. **9927**

Large Black men
Big black men with large chests and lots of smooth skin to climb all over. Let's get it on. **9928**

Daddy top with full white beard
and big ole dick needs bottom companion who is versatile, talented, and holds a grateful heart. **9929**

Mommie dearest told me...
I could grow up to be whatever I wanted if I worked hard at it. So I became such a good cocksucker! I made captain, U.S. Olympic cocksucking team! **9930**

The cocksucker's curse:
Light loads, limpy oozed. So my elegant blow jobs inspire your rock hard dick (size incidental) to shoot its very max in gushers of white hot protein. **9931**

Big, masculine guys...
Are you tired of always being on top? This masculine WM, 36, 5'9, 175, is looking to help you explore your bottom/submissive side. **9927**

Leatherboy needs bully daddy
ISO: leatherdaddy/bully for sissy-toilet into heavy pushin around, slapping, spin, pissin, has downs, suckin, diaperin, trainin, humiliation, bondage, public scenes in SF. **9928**

Cocksucking unlimited
Slow, sensual blow jobs for well-hung, trim caucasian 30yo & up on basement massage table. Kick back, take ur time. Blue-eyed, brunettes a+. **9929**

Whip out that fat meat
Beefy 88M, 24, 200, HIV-, w/812"/X6" dick, ISO nasty, thick-tooled guy for mutual posing/jacking. Big asses, huge nuts, self-suckers get harder-how about you? **9930**

Wm, 36, 6', 190, married top
seeks sexual friendship. HIV-, clean, safe, UB2. Curious to be rimmed. Asian, Latino, want all pluses. Obviously have limited availability & experience. **9931**

Muscular GWM bottom SF & SJ
ISO muscular top fuck buddy, HIV+, healthy, hot. Nice smile, great pecs, legs, ass, pierced tits. Oral sex, spanking, bondage, group-play sex. **9932**

Boy2 Men
Charming Oakland boy, HIV+, 28, 5'7, seeking financially secure, tall, masculine, clean-cut, attractive man, 30-45, looking for outgoing, fun people to enjoy evenings and weekends. **9933**

Sex, Sex and more Sex!
Sexy hairy Italian stud, 45, can't get enough of the good stuff. I love to mount masculine hairy assed well-endowed men. 35-45. **9934**

Naked or clothed
One of us is naked, one of us is clothed, one orders, one obeys. Lean goated masculine WM 40 seeking trim masculine young guy for safe role-playing fun. **9935**

Hot leatherboy in top's body
ISO total leather/top/bully to publicly humiliate me in bondage, hoods, diapers n' plastic pants, urinal duty, WS, serious only. **9935**

Just for the sex of it
Want some? This HIV- top, who enjoys, wants and needs it. Seeks a tight bottom that feels the same way. Hot sex first-possible boyfriends or more later. **9936**

Pig bottoms
Wanted for parties. Leave name, stats, qualifications, number. Will return all calls. **9937**

Verboten!
Seeking young Nordic/Germanic blond Aryen with blood purty racial beliefs for J/O. Me: 40, in-shape, crypto-nationalist. Let's rewrite history. No SM, Just "forbidden" brotherly love. **9938**

Spring back 7-inch desired
Safe play with fun, sensual Asian, 5'8, 28W, 5'8/6" GWM, 20-30, healthy, fit, proportional, erotic, NS, ND, willing to give hand/tongue/bodywork and receive a hot blow! Discreet. Your place or mine? **9939**

Black in Vallejo
Attractive, 26, 6'2, 190#, looks to be serviced. Prefer passionate horn dogs. **9940**

Top man seeks hot young head
WM, 40's, HIV-, very masculine, in-shape, dominant top seeks submissive HIV- under 30 with cum hungry deep throat into older men for long sessions at your SF place. **9942**

Huge nipples for your pleasure
Play with, lick & suck them. I'm 59, 6', 235#, handsome, short silver hair, trim moustache and goatee. You: real tit and nipple lover. **9943**

ISO S. Bay ename by Bi-TV
Did your mommy give you hot soapy enemas and force you to take the whole bag? 42yo, 5'11, trim and eager to relieve the times and trials. Very clean and discreet. **9944**

Hairy scat top
44yo masculine with dirty butt into letting older bottoms touch around a man's body, giving him a close up view. **9945**

Big shaved nuts and dick(7/12X6)
ISO mutual admiration, stretching, squeezing, sucking with big dick(7+) and nutted, hot, muscular 35-50, single men w/ facial hair. Me: hot, 40's, hairy, masc, inshape, UB2. Big slits, veiny, uncult, Latin a+. **9946**

Serious dick milking
for horny orgasm-oriented GM who wants to slip his tool into my love paw for manservicing. I'm 51, 5'8, 175, br/blu, beard, HIV-. **9947**

Wanted: Hot Nordic
Sexy smooth bottom, 5'8" needs fucking from hot Nord. Prefer tall (6') with nice dick, handsome and professional, between 35-55. NS, ND, aroma OK. **9948**

Action? In Alameda?
Masculine but submissive bottom guy with huge front or rear holes needed by massively hung top. Warning: I'm not beavily so please to SF attitude, beepers, novices. **9949**

Senior GWM
60's, 5'6", 135#, muscular gym-toned searching for any size age rage to help my commands Mid Pen. Be in good shape. **9950**

Older Men
GWM, 5'11, 110#, 5'2, slache, 55yo, with very hot hairy little tight ass. Need cocks, hands, fingers. Also I have 7" cock and balls that need to be stretched hard. Plus I love to suck. Please be horny!! **9951**

Masculine muscular Asian top
Seeks submissive muscular man, 25-45yrs of age for safe fun. Me: 36, 5'9, 173#, You: enjoy being handled and used. **9952**

Soccer boy
WM, 18, 5'6, 135#, blond bottom. Great compact freckled body, very cute. Seeks older (20-40) macho muscle studs. Hairy a plus. I love to suck dick. **9953**

Love to be fucked
by aggressive men for a long time on a TR. Me: GWM, 160#, 6'2. Lay me on my stomach and penetrate me with your big, hung, wet dick. **9954**

Plow this hairy Latin ass
GLM, 20, 180, 5'9, bottom, submissive and goodlooking in search of regular sex buddies. Open to all races, especially Big Black Cocks. **9955**

Uncut?
WM, 40, 5'8, 140# ISO uncut male for oral play. Hispanic a + +. **9956**

Slow sensual blow-jobs
for well-hung, trim, Caucasian guy 30yrs and up. Kick back on my basement massage table. No recip. Blue eyed brunettes a+. **9957**

Hot rim/cum/piss action
Discreet GWM, 24, 5'3, 130, HIV- seeking GWM under 50, HIV- with cut dick for endless mutual rimming, blowjob, WS. NS, STD free. At your place. Call me. **9958**

Seeking GW, 6L, GA 20-45
for cuddling, JO, oral sex, and ball work by GWP, HIV-, 45, br/bl, very hairy, 5'11, 220, balding, uncult. **9959**

Suck Daddy's dick
Down on your knees, boy. Your dad's gonna grab you by the hair as he shoves his fat 8" dick up your butt. **9960**

Green eyes seeks brown eyes
Attractive, NS, SF GWM, 38, 175, 5'10 seeks smooth-chested Latino dude for good times, vanilla to kink, chunky ok, facial hair, shaved heads a plus. **9961**

ACT UP/Golden Gate
Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mts. Tues, 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs, 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

ACT UP/SF
Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact: 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture
The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

ADD Support Group
Informal support group for gay and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Benefits Counselors
Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group
For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Thursdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephen Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Project of the East Bay
HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

ARIS
AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Baker Places
Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

BAPHR
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 538-9353.

Baylands Family Circle
Non-profit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups
For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Buddhist AIDS Project
Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 242-7473.

Catholic Charities
Residential and direct HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems
Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

CHANGES Project
(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ gay men call: 597-9169.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV
Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1345.

Clinica Esperanza
The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Connections
Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services
An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous
Meetings every Wed., 8pm at 18th St. Services Mtg. Place (15th & Market); Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Davies Med. Center
Free classes for HIV+ people in needle-point (Thurs., Wed.), exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.). Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Diabetics
Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type 1 and Type 2 diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dolores Street Comm. Services
Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program
Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinic, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

Eden & R
Information & referral for AIDS/SF affordable housing, HIV service providers in Alameda Co. (510) 537-2600.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services
Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. 572-9702.

FABRIC
A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3393, x118/x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS
Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Galeamas
Service organization supporting gay and lesbian employees of Pacific Bell. Membership info: call 747-9880.

Gay Dads
Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC, Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay Male Nudists
Potluck dinners monthly, after-hours parties, movie nights. Box 14175, SF 94114. 974-9446.

Gay Youth Spirit
The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

G40+ Club
A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Golden Gate Flyers
Gay, lesbian and bisexual, private and professional profiles. Call for upcoming events: 995-4938.

HIVCare
Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, free to participants. Info: Sher Wieja, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups
6-8pm for people with HIV. Wed. 8pm. Women with HIV. Tues. 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Group
Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1-2:30pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Negative Support Group
For gay and bisexual men offered by AIDS Health Project; free drop-in, time-limited and ongoing support groups. Info: 476-3902.

HIV Positive Youth Group
18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Sighting Group
Meditation for those with HIV, caregivers, friends. Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginners: 10:20am). Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. Info: 863-2507.

HIV Testing
Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Immune Enhancement Project
Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center
Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Instituto Laboral de la Raza
Helps low income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-7522.

Linea de Ambiente
Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi-Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Meditation Sessions
For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault
Operates sexual assault hotline for men. Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Mobilization Against AIDS
Seeks volunteers to assist in planning 15th Internat'l AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Call 863-4676.

Molested Boys:
"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audiotape. Call 552-4270.

Mothers Organizing Mothers
Working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 922-4639 or 221-6651 for information.

Movement and Voice
Group for HIV+ Men, no experience necessary. Monday nights, 7pm. Call Paul, (510) 763-5900.

MWMM
A rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Wed. nights, 6:30pm. HIV/AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-0946.

Multiple Loss Bereavement Group
For those experiencing multiple losses of friends or loved ones to AIDS. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

Planetree Health Resource Center
Up-to-date medical info to assist in making informed health choices. Extensive consumer health library, current medical lit clippings & health bookstore. Also support groups, health information service by mail. 2040 Webster St. 923-3680.

Rimeast & diido service
Masc. att. GWM lots of toys ISO in-shape clean hot n/c 100. Versatile a + + but not hie. ☎ 1047

BD, FF, Toys, Shaving, CBT
Chastity, domination, control, S/M, UB boy-slash, experienced. LTR possible. No drugs/drinks. ☎ 1048

Generous gym 55 seeks master
25 to 40 for S/M, WS, BD, wrestling, judo. ☎ 1049

Seeks watersports leatherman
Ln, 29, masc, 5'11, 160#, bottom to be used by leathergays. Use me for your sex slave and watersport, your place. ☎ 1051

Great head service
For the sensual bald or skinned head by very handsome mature GWM, 5'10, 150, white hair, beard, must, hot mouth, butt & touch. Guaranteed pleasure for the aware and adventurous. ☎ 1052

Daddies N2 FF w/ facial hair
Need ongoing spiritual revelation w/ Lov/leather, versatile top, GAAW/M HV+ ns dikes, TT, FF, Mc GEW, 6'1, 200#, sh/p/p hair & goatee. Need a cool mate. ☎ 1053

Nasty bondage fuck scene party
37yo slender bottom wants to have a hot bondage scene-let me up in all kinds of explicit ways showing my butt off and then fuck it raw. ☎ 1058

Boot buddy
I'm looking for another masculine, discreet guy to share my interest in boots. North Bay but can travel. ☎ 1060

The Positive Center
Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin CO. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Gay Humanists
Internat'l organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

Positive Living for Us
Free weekend seminar for recently-tested HIV+. Info: Alfredo, 356-8129.

Positive Resource
Provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or attend an employment opportunity orientation mtg call 928-1448.

Project HOPE
HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Open Hand
Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida
Counseling and workshops on HIV and other life issues for gay, les, bi and trans Latinos/as. 864-7278.

PWA Long-Term Survivors
Support group for men and women, friendly, pro-active. Call Carol, 584-1708.

Q Action
Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center
Acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapies, enhancing quality of life with Yoga and Chi Gong classes. Call for schedule. 1748 Market. 861-4964.

Question HIV
Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radical Women
Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Rafiki Services Project
Support group for people of African American people living with AIDS in SF. 346-5860.

Richard M. Cohen Residence
SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS, needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and household donations (call Wayne April, 282-6209).

Richmond Senior Center
Seeks volunteers in computer, p.r., marketing, senior safety, other fields. Call 752-2815.

Southern Alameda HIV Services
Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward. (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

Stanford GALA
Gay, lesbian, bisexual alumni/ae club of Stanford Univ. Info: 723-9036.

STD Check-ups
Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

St. Francis Senior Center
Invites seniors to weekly gatherings. Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Tambayan
Support/social group for queer pinoy and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transenders in Transition
Alternative Family Project's on-going support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203B. 436-9000.

Transitions
Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6775.

Transcendental Meditation Center
Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 951-1621.

Transgender Support Group
Multiracial rap group, every first Monday of month, 6:30pm. Call Adela Holiday, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project
Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Under One Roof
The Shop for AIDS Relief at 2362 Market seeks volunteers to assist customers and help with catalogue sales. Call Ian at 252-9430.

Volunteer haircutters needed
For HIV patient services at Davies Med. Ctr. Once a month, 3-4hr. shift on Mon. Call Barbara at 565-6374.

We Care Bay Area
Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Weight Watchers Mtg.
Men: 9am Sat. 7pm Wed. Women: 6:30pm Tues. MCC, 150 Eureka St.

WillCare Hospice
& Home Care offers free 24-hr. training course for volunteers. 2001 Gateway, San Jose. Call 467-0777.

Women's Cancer Resource Center
Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.

LESBIANS

No guys, just girls. I like private parties, too. I'm 24yrs old, from Puerto Vallarta, Mex. Cute, hot and exciting ready to do everything, anytime, everywhere. I got a lot of experience. I do mas-sage, dancer, and very good for sex. Call me. I want to suck you all over your body. ☎ 9832

ISO the feminine touch
Masculine LM, 42, 6', 155#, moderately hairy ISO younger effeminate looking/acting man. No S/M, B/D or pain. ☎ 9836

Muscular whipmaster
with strong arm ISO together in-shape bottoms for slow, long flopping sessions. Under 45. Leather, etc. Limits, stamina respected & expanded. ☎ 9837

Super-hung Oakland Black man
46, needs a D/T oral exp available to relieve me at 5:30am Monday thru Friday. Sincere, mature, easy to reach, committed experts only please. ☎ 9838

Mutilated cock freak
Altered, mutilated cock turns me on. Have had radical meotomy, partial castration. Interested in kinky procedures, CRT pictures, etc. Cutting, splitting, removal fantasies. No bullshit, please. Will answer all. ☎ 1050

I'm Seeking a foot buddy & friend
Life-long excitement looking at/fantazizing about men's barefeet. Gd/ling East Bay GWM, 5'8, trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet and sensual/safe all over body pleasures. More? ☎ 9834

Want to play with something big? How's 8" thick and on a hot top? I am insaph, goodlooking and seeking excited bottoms for real hot sex play. ☎ 1040

Talk, fight, struggle for top
Seeking the wild side, GWM, 5'0, 5'10, 170, HIV-, looking for wrestling, boxing, raunch duels, very aggressive. Ethnic, East Bay, your place preferred, all answered. ☎ 1041

Feral sucking
Retired professional provides organic, nutritious, copious and healthful oral supplementation of male hormones by mouth. Nite house calls to Berkeley. ☎ 1042

Hot Young Piece wanted
Muscular, 38, 160#, 6', goodlooking, great shape, gym-toned All-American hung big seeks boys/young men thin to muscular who like to service big dicks. ☎ 1043

Piss sensation
My mouth available. My tongue will lick your piss slit and slowly bring your balls and bladder to explosive release. Call now. Same day/night callback. ☎ 1044

Bury it deep
Well hung? Want to use all of (your way with a hungry bottom)? 38/63/200, blonde, blue, goodlooking, in-shape, passionate, uninhibited. All hung welcome to pump. ☎ 1045

Blond top, hung 8" thick
Wants to fill you up! I am in-shape, handsome, hairy chest, 38yrs, insatiable have a goatee and want active willing bottoms for fun. ☎ 1046

Full-service pig seeks top
Mega-muscular raunch slave needs nasty man top to service regularly-scat and piss scenes. No reciprocity-top only wanted. ☎ 9835

ISO the feminine touch
Masculine LM, 42, 6', 155#, moderately hairy ISO younger effeminate looking/acting man. No S/M, B/D or pain. ☎ 9836

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BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

Parting Glances ☐

Seeking Relationship ☐

Seeking Adventure ☐

Lesbian ☐

Fetishes ☐

Couples ☐

Others ☐

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum _____

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum _____

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____	Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____	Evening Telephone _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum	
Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum	

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ALL LIVE! 24 HOURS

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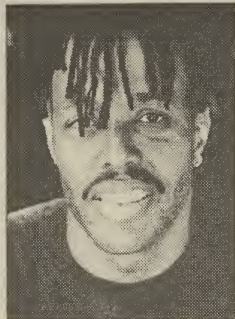
Brownworth

◀ page 40

tragedies, dying suddenly and alone in his icy cold apartment, his body not found for days, his second book unfinished. None of his close friends had known how sick he was. None of his close friends — his white friends — knew what a secret AIDS still was for many gay black men who were living with it.

That was the secret Assotto wanted to expose. He hated how Melvin Dixon died right after winning a Lambda Literary Award. He hated how no one knew how sick Dixon was. He hated how so many black gay men he knew were afraid to declare, afraid to acknowledge, afraid of what telling might cost them. The silence was worse than the virus, he told me. The silence would overwhelm us.

He never meant that as a prophecy, only as a warning. Assotto looked beautiful in drag, a real street queen, an exquisite man with an innate sense of theatre. It was easy to imagine him as Cassandra — a prophetic voice trying to be heard — but hard to adjust to the awful truth of the image, only, of course, because Assotto was right. He published well over 100 black gay men in his books, some of them not even living to see themselves in print. He was an unlikely activist, but he threw himself into the role and he worked hard to be heard, not just in New York, but around the country. His message was so sim-



Steven Corbin

ple: AIDS was killing black men, and silence about it was only killing them faster.

There weren't a lot of voices sharing the chorus with Assotto. The David Feinbergs and Larry Kramers were shouting from the rooftops, but they weren't talking to or about black gay men. At the same time that New York publishers were tapping into the AIDS "market," publishing book after book about white gay men and AIDS, Steven Corbin was told by an editor that his novel about an interracial couple with AIDS wasn't realistic, just didn't have a market. Now Steven is dead.

I wanted to tell you a story about black gay artists for Black History Month. I wanted to tell you about how black history and gay history and AIDS history intersect. I wanted to tell you about the first black artist I knew who died of AIDS, a man named Sag, a

poet and singer I met when I was 16 and singing in a blues band. I wanted to tell you that I watched him — a big strapping man — just disappear, fade out. I wanted to tell you that I have lost count of the number of black artists I have known who have died of AIDS since Sag died. I wanted to tell you that black men are still dying from AIDS at a rate much higher than their white brothers. I wanted to tell you that every time you read an obituary for a white gay writer, a black one has died too, but no one has written it down.

I wanted to tell you a story for Black History Month. I wanted to tell you that when I first knew Sag he could bring a house down with his sultry voice, that Essex was a poet who could mesmerize an audience, that Marlon Riggs was a stellar filmmaker, and that Steven Corbin was sexy, handsome and knew how to tell a story. I wanted to tell you that Assotto Saint was sweet and tender and fierce as they come, that Joe Beam worked his whole life to complete *In the Life*, and that when Alyson Books was sold in the same month that Essex died, Beam's book went out of print and so did its sequel, *Brother to Brother*, which Essex finished.

I wanted to tell you their story for Black History Month, about how hard they fought to have their black gay voices heard, how they went to their graves fighting, their mouths open, the words still flowing out. I wanted to tell you now, while you're still listening. I wanted to tell you now, before the silence swallowed up their words forever. ▼

Out There

◀ page 34

the drivelous novel *Angel Wings*. In a perfect example of the sort of intellectual cronyism that characterizes today's ossified queer lit circles, *LBR* allows Conn to yammer on and on about why she thinks people didn't like her silly film, without offering or even suggesting that there might be another point of view. "I was so hurt by the reaction," a weepy Conn told interviewer **Kathleen DeBold**. "I made a very honest, very out lesbian movie that was considered 'too lesbian' by mainstream distributors and was ripped apart by the lesbian press."

What Nicole and crony Kathleen fail to see is that had *Claire of the Moon* been about something other than Nicole's own shallow and uninteresting life, it might have enjoyed a wider audience among lesbians. Megalomania comes with a heavy price, Nicole.

Seeing things

Somebody who also talks about himself a lot is composer **Ned Rorem**, only Ned is a talented and important artist, wit, and raconteur who is always worth listening to. In a hilariously barbed interview with **Anthony Tommasini** in last week's *New York Times*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer had some characteristically vivid things to say about the state of his art. "I don't want to sound like a crybaby, but this is a bad time for music. Everybody knows it," Rorem said. Speaking of ex-Beatle **Paul McCartney**'s much-touted new symphony, Rorem said, "I heard about 20 minutes of it. It's wretched. We live in a philistine world."

Smugly narrow our world may be, but Rorem is widening the view of things with his latest composition, *Evidence of Things Not Seen*, a concert-length song cycle based on the works of **W.H. Auden**, **Paul Goodman**, **Emily Dickinson**, **Walt Whitman**, **Oscar Wilde**, **Robert Frost**, **Collette**, and two texts by living writers, **Mark Doty** and **Julian Green**. Rorem says the work, which premiered last week in New York, was inspired by the "loss of so many friends to AIDS."

Rorem turns 75 in October, but to hear him talk about art and life, you'd think he was half that age.

Killer undies

Interesting story in the *Los Angeles Times* the other day. Seems researchers working on methods of male birth-control have determined that men who wear cotton briefs no longer need to worry that their undergarments are inhibiting sperm production.

According to the *Times*, **Dr. Christina Wang** and a team of researchers at UCLA were trying to come up with an attractive alternative to condoms and vasectomies as a means for male contraception. The team alighted on the idea of polyester-lined briefs

after initial research showed that sperm production is unusually sensitive to temperature. But, after close study of "scrotal temperatures" in three all-male, briefs-clad control groups, analysts found that "the average scrotal temperatures rose by only 1.5 to 1.8 degrees." Even at that increased temperature, said the *Times*, "semen volume, sperm concentration and sperm viability were all unaffected." We think Dr. Wang and her researchers could have spared themselves a lot of work, and taxpayers a lot of money, had they asked **Calvin Klein**, the queen of underpants, for his notes on this exquisitely recondite topic.

Asleep at the wheel

"I never really know any specifics. It's better not to know." No, that's not **Tina Turner** offering up a profound Zen koan, that's film director **Woody Allen** sharing the secret of his success with the *New York Times*. Apparently Woody hasn't read a film review of one of his movies in 15 years, and he "pays no attention to box-office receipts." Allen, who has just released his 27th film, *Deconstructing Harry*, told the *Times*, "People tell me general things about my films, like 'Congratulations, we did good business,' or 'We don't understand, we didn't do so good business.'" If you've ever had the feeling while watching one of Woody's films that the director is on auto-pilot, now you know why.

Say what?

Hey, it looks like St. Martin's Press is about to come out with a big yawn — oops, we meant book — about **Larry Kramer**. We were amused no end by the tome's title, *We Must Love One Another Or Die*. Amused because it would seem there is no one less equipped for **W. H. Auden's** beatific refrain than the ptomainous, hate-mongering Larry. But, well, it's a queer world, isn't it? ▼

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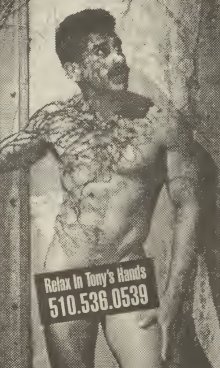


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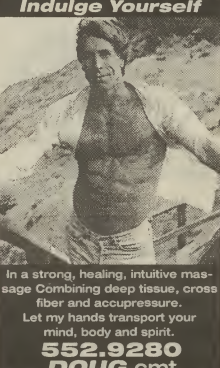


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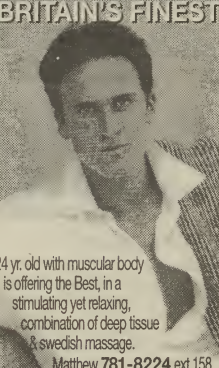


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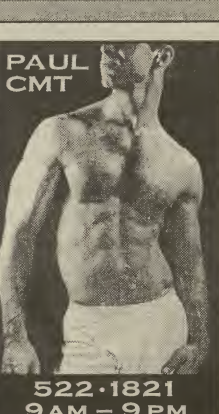
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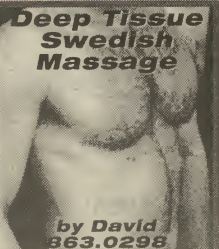
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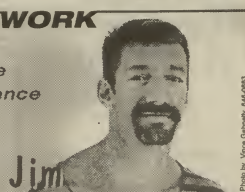


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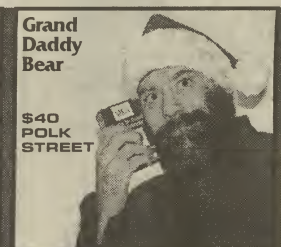
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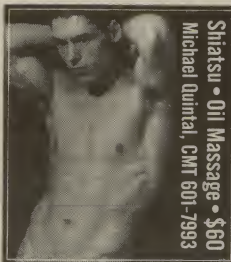
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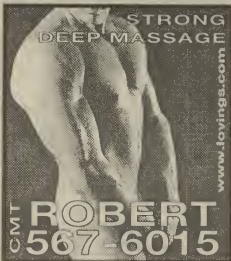


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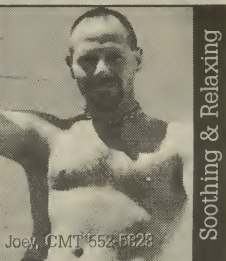
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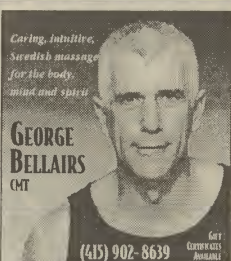
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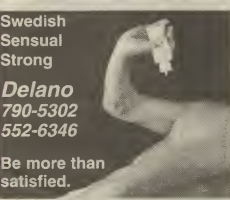


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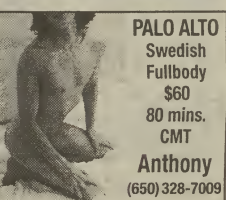
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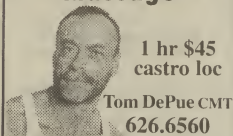
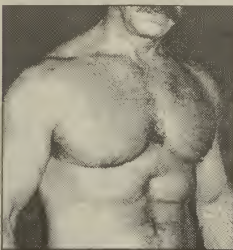
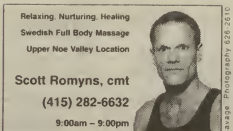
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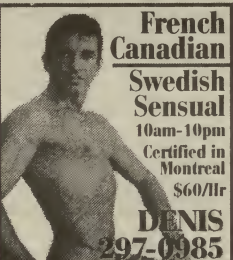
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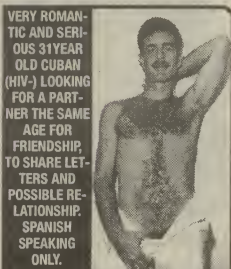
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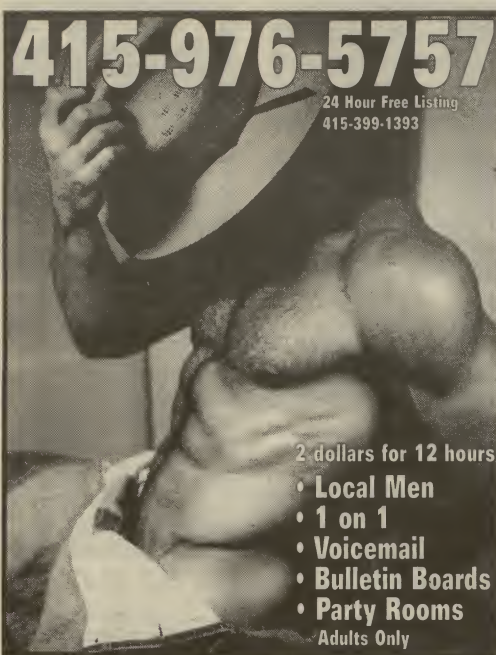
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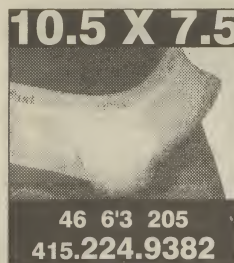
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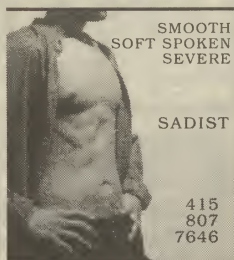
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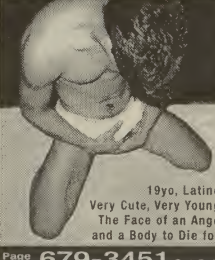
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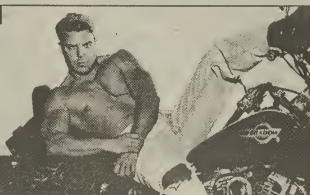
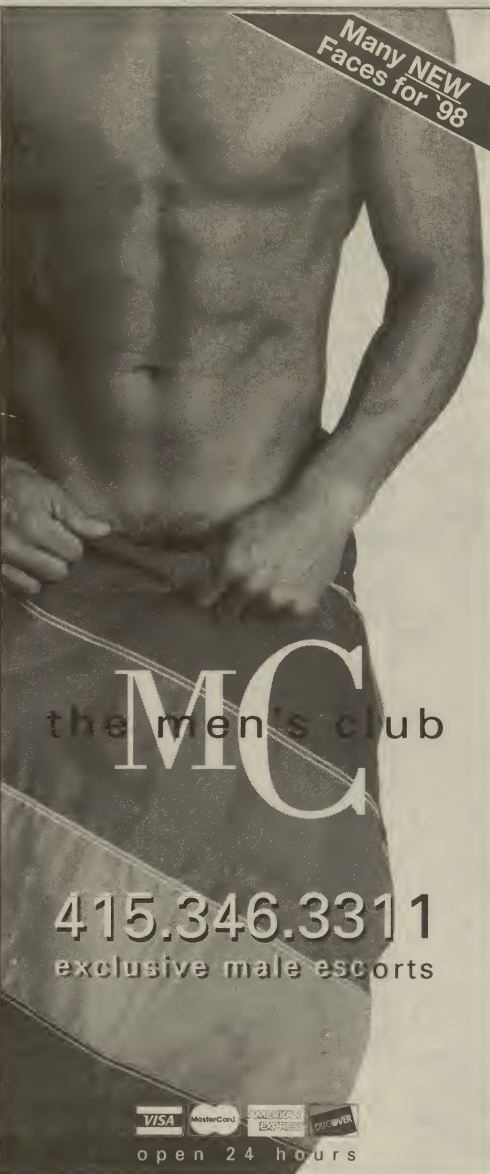
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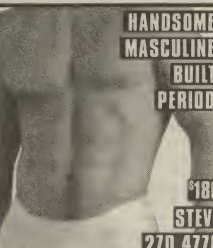
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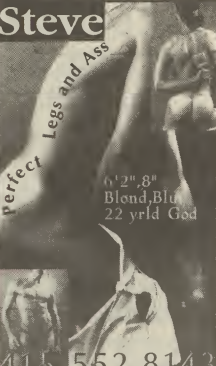
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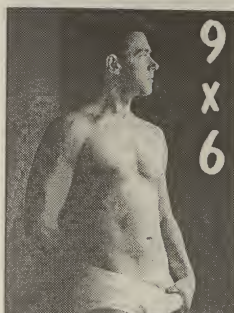
MIKE, 30,5'10" 200#,Bld/Blu Clean-cut Muscle Hunk In/Out-\$100(415) 863-8932

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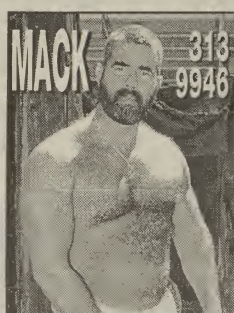
BLACK B/B BOTTOM

Derrick 120ln 130/Out 313-7127 Vm/Pgr.

MODELS/ESCORTS



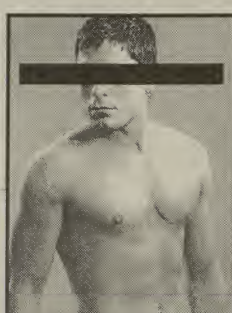
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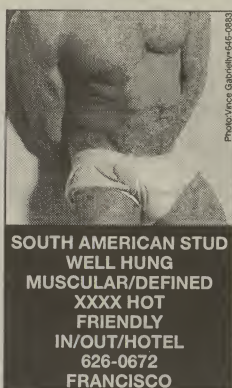
5'3" 115#
YUM.
Nick 280-8049



KEVIN
PGR-790-1545



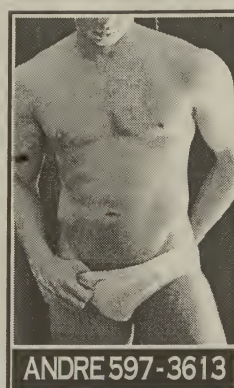
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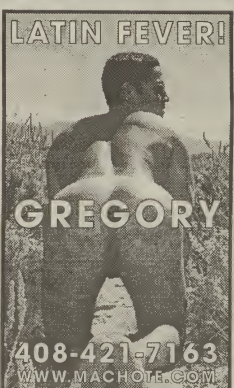
PLAYGUY MODEL
FEB. 1996
MESSAGE
ESCORT
STRIPPER
VIDEO
ROCKY
280-8002 PGR
GFT, SMOOTH SWIMMER'S
BUILD, 8" UNCUT



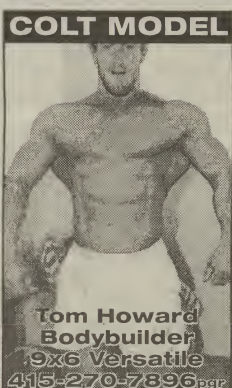
ANDRE 597-3613



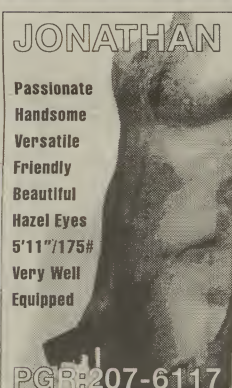
Marcus Iron
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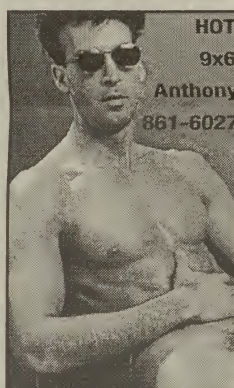
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Name

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Telephone

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Classification

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